This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

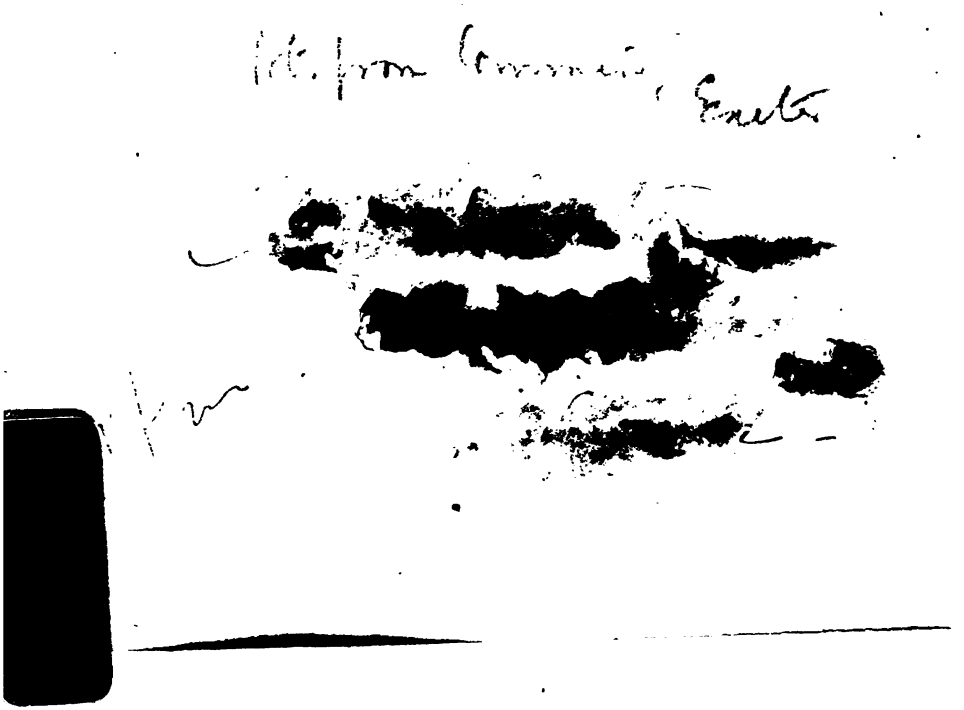
+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`



ERRATA.

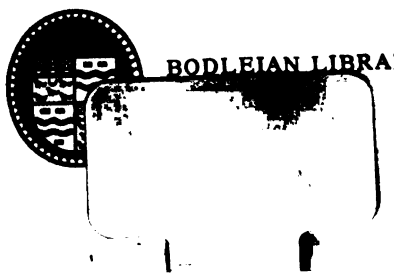
Page 10, line 3, for "1067," read "1066."

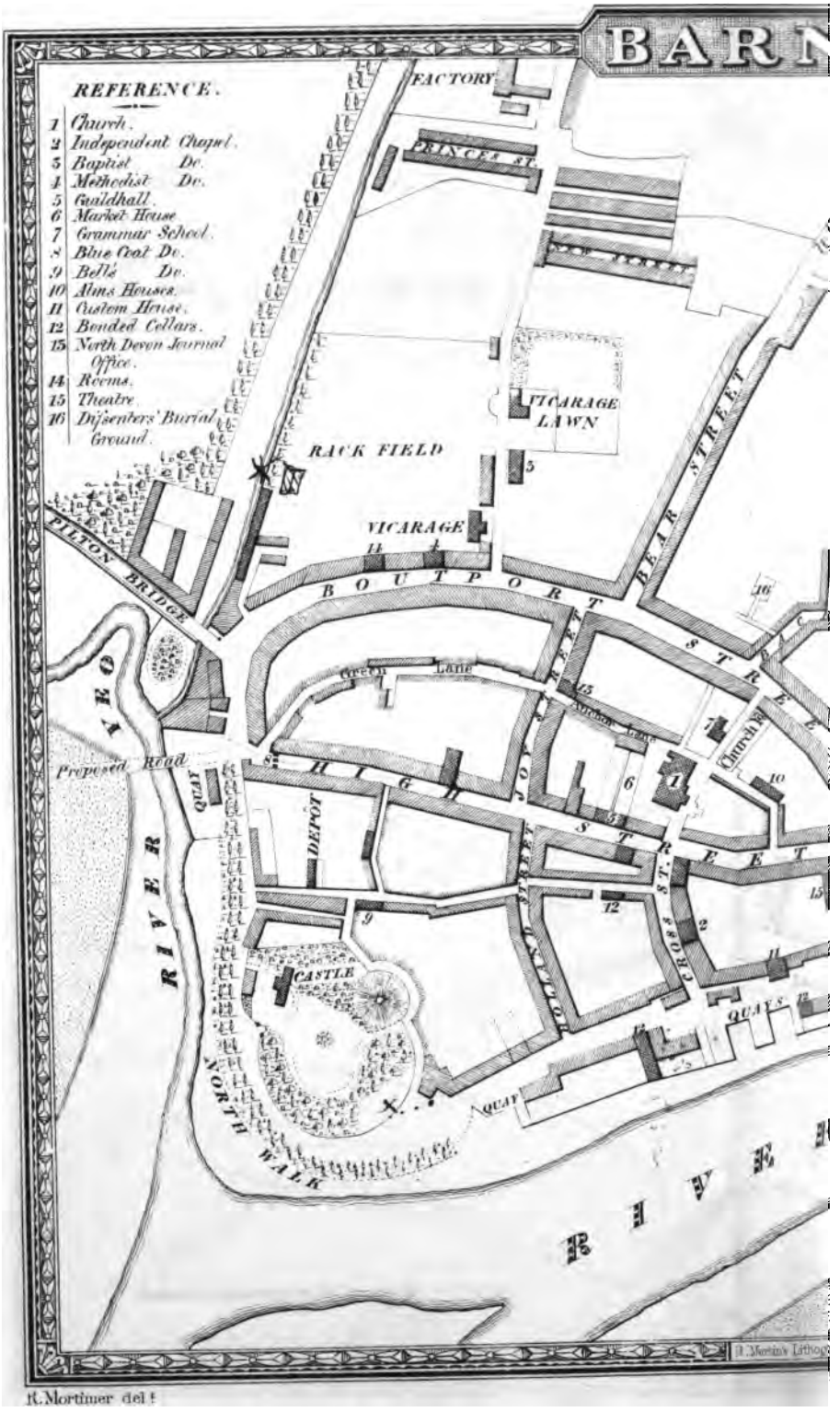
Page 32, line 14, for "Rev. John Boyce, Rector of Sherwill," read "Rev. Thomas Boyce, Curate of Sherwill."

Page 41, note †, for "page 16," read "page 20."

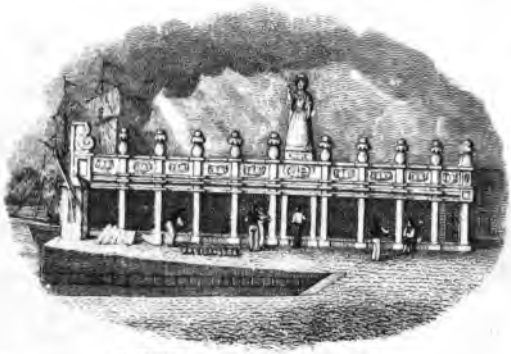
Page 166, line 21, for "these monies," read "some of these monies."

Page 192, line 6, for "Rector," read "Curate."




BARN
REFERENCE.
1 Church.
2 Independent Chapel.
3 Baptist Do.
4 Methodist Do.
5 Guildhall.
6 Market House
7 Grammar School.
8 Blue Coat Do.
9 Bell's Do.
10 Alms Houses.
11 Custom House.
12 Bonded Cellars.
13 North Devon Journal Office.
14 Rooms.
15 Theatre.
16 Dissenters' Burial Ground.
FACTORY
PRINCES ST.
VICARAGE LAWN
RACK FIELD
VICARAGE
FILTON BRIDGE
BOUTPORT
BEAR STREET
Green Lane
Proposed Road
QUAY
HIGH STREET
DEPOT
CROSS ST.
CASTLE
NORTH WALK
QUAYS
RIVER TAW
R. Mortimer del!

STAPLE



QUEEN ANNE'S WALK.

PROSPECT PLACE

SUMMERLAND PLACE

BRICK YARD

NURSERY

BARBICAN

PRISON

10

Infirmary

UNION PL^ce

LONDON ROAD

LITCHDON SQUARE

LITCHDON

SHIP YARD

QUAY

TAW

Lord Bath's Walk

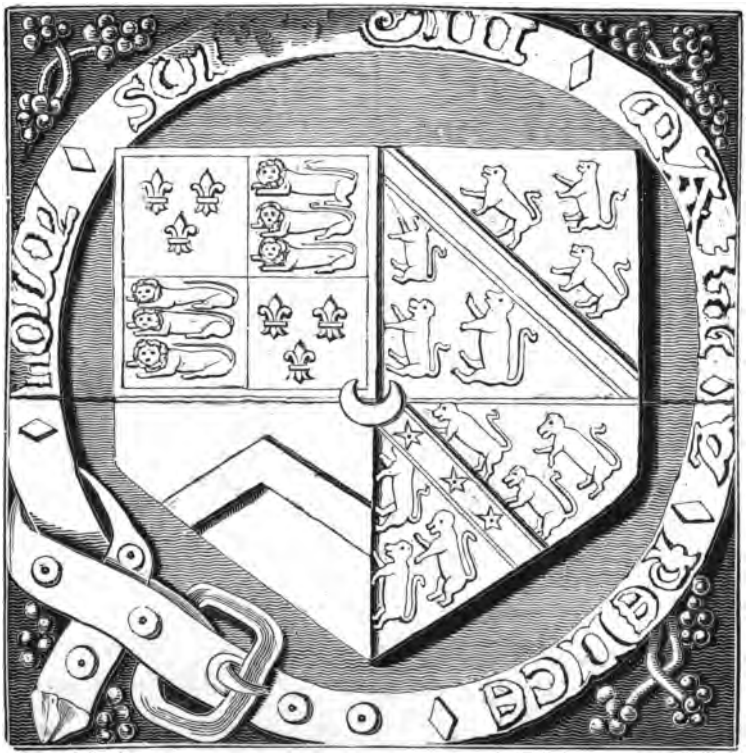
TAWSTOCK BANK

Scale.

FORT HILL FIELD

KEBERLY

PLACE



ARMS OF HENRY STAFFORD, EARL OF WILTSHIRE, K.G.

WHO DIED 1523.

CARVED ON TWO BLOCKS OF FREESTONE, FOUND IN THE RACKFIELD, MAY 1819.

MEMORIALS

OF

BARNSTAPLE;

BEING AN ATTEMPT TO SUPPLY THE WANT OF

A HISTORY

OF THAT ANCIENT BOROUGH.

By JOSEPH BESLY GRIBBLE.

THE HISTORY OF A TOWN IS UNITED WITH THAT OF THE KINGDOM TO WHICH IT BELONGS, AND WITH THAT OF THE AGES THROUGH WHICH IT HAS STOOD. TOULMIN.

BARNSTAPLE:

PRINTED AT THE NORTH DEVON JOURNAL OFFICE,

BY J. AVERY.

1830.

BODLEIAN
14 DEC 1928
LIBRARY

PREFATORY ADDRESS.

"ALBEIT unused to tread *historic* ground;" although but a mere intruder into the ranks of literature; I have ventured to stand forward, as the memorialist of the place, where, some forty years ago, "I first drew vital air."

Whilst Towns of minor importance, and comparitively of no antiquity, have had their "*histories*" sent forth to the world; that a place distinguished above most others in the extensive county in which it is situate—a walled town in the days of the Saxons; one of the most ancient boroughs in the kingdom; a naval port in the reign of Edward the third, and represented as such in a regal council held by that monarch at Westminster; furnishing on several occasions ships for the navy of Queen Elizabeth, but particularly in aid of the renowned Drake against the Spanish armada; a garrison town in the revolution of 1642, and taking a prominent part in the events of that period; in former years, as at present, the metropolis of the North of Devon! That Barnstaple, thus distinguished, should

have so long remained without any public record of the principal events of its history, is to be lamented; inasmuch as many valuable relics of days long past have doubtless been lost beyond recovery. It may also be charged as a reproach on many of her sons, whose talents and resources well fitted them for the execution of such a work. Only one attempt, that I am aware of, has ever been made towards the accomplishment of this object; and that, as will be seen, was defeated by the death of the individual who had engaged in it.

It is more than probable, that could I in the first instance have viewed this undertaking in all its bearings, with its attendant difficulties, labour, anxiety, and expense, I should have shrunk from the task, and never have commenced it at all; but before I could thus contemplate it, I had advanced so far as to be unable to make good a retreat. The origin of this work may be thus shortly traced.

In December, 1826, an official document, relative to the insecure state and inefficient government of the town prison, was put into my hands, with a request that I would embody the information it contained, in a Letter to the Editor of the North Devon Journal; I complied; the letter was inserted, and a second followed.

The question between the Corporation and the Inhabitants, as to the liability of the respective parties to rebuild the prison, now excited a very lively interest, and of course, a corresponding spirit of inquiry. Documents, which might haply throw light on the subject, were eagerly sought after, and many valuable records

were, in consequence, brought under review, which might otherwise never have emerged from the obscurity to which they had been consigned.

Some of these, with the Commissioners' report of the public charities of Barnstaple, it was proposed to publish. Scarcely, however, was the design made known, than a more extended work, which should embrace a History of the Town, was eagerly called for, and numerous offers made of materials, in aid of such an undertaking: the result was, that the original plan became again and again enlarged; until at length, from the quantity and variety of matter on hand, it was found that Memorials of Barnstaple, instead of being comprised in a pamphlet, as at first intended, could not possibly be done justice to, in any thing short of an octavo volume. Thus was I led on, step by step, until it was impracticable to recede with credit, or without subjecting myself to considerable pecuniary loss.

Let it not then be supposed, that either vanity, or a longing after the sweets of authorship, was the spring that first set this work in motion; on the contrary, should the smallest portion of amusement or information be communicated to the reader through the medium of the following pages, he is desired to bear in mind, that he owes it to the accidental circumstance of the author's having been *solicited* to lend his aid in the discussion of the prison question; but for which, the "Memorials" would, in all human probability, have never been presented to the public.

It will be expected that I should assign some reason why the publication of this work has been so long

delayed; and also, why a part of it only now appears. Various adverse circumstances have contributed to the delay. By an ordinance of unerring wisdom, "Man is born to trouble;" and by a providential exercise of this decree, it has been my lot, since I commenced this undertaking, to experience the mutations of fortune to an extent that has deprived me of all I possessed, save a good reputation. Thus situated, and the subject withal of acute feelings, it will not be thought surprising that I for a time abandoned the prosecution of a work like the present.

Another great hinderance to its progress, arose from the length of time (more than twelve months) which was occupied in procuring a copy and translation of one of the charters of the borough, from His Majesty's record office. I ought rather perhaps, to impute the delay to the refusal of the Corporation to permit a copy of the document to be furnished to me at home, by which I was driven to obtain it from the Tower, and that at an expense exceeding twenty pounds—but of this more anon! Altogether, the delay has been considerable, yet it has proved on the whole advantageous; *much additional information, and many curious particulars* have been obtained during the interval, and interwoven with the work, which must otherwise have been wholly excluded from it.

The plan of publishing the accompanying portion of the work, rather than the patience of the subscribers should be longer trespassed upon, has met with the sanction of those to whom it has been mentioned; and it is hoped will give satisfaction generally. The charter,

which has been so long waited for, being now in my own keeping, the remainder of the volume will proceed regularly, and with all practicable speed.—It may be looked for in about four months from this time.

In announcing that Memorials of Barnstaple can not possibly be completed within the limits assigned for them, viz. three hundred pages, I trust I shall not be hastily censured; feeling as I do an *entire confidence*, that I shall be fully exonerated from blame by all who will kindly give the subject their candid and patient consideration. To fix the precise extent of a work of this nature, even when the necessary materials are brought together, is no easy task; but in the present instance, after this had been decided on, (as was thought finally,) a considerable addition of important and interesting matter came to my hands. I could not possibly have anticipated the possession of this; but having obtained it, I should have been guilty, if I may so speak, of a literary misdemeanour, not to have turned it to account. Independent, however, of an *accession* of materials, I found it requisite to treat some subjects more copiously than I at first intended. The Charities, for instance: on attentively perusing the Commissioners' Report, which it was at first proposed to give without comment, the information it afforded, although truly valuable, appeared so incomplete, as to render some further elucidation of the subject really necessary. The "Appendix" to the report (which was attended with no trifling labour,) certainly adds to the bulk of the volume; but surely no one of my subscribers who takes—and who does not take?—an interest in the wel-

fare of the legitimate objects of the various benevolent institutions to which it relates, and whose benefit it is designed to promote, would wish the supplementary matter excluded.

It will be seen in the present publication, that I have expressed my sentiments with freedom: I shall fearlessly pursue the same course to the end of the volume. He who appears in the character of an historian, will often find it needful to assume that of a censor also,* however repugnant to his inclination, and even if contrary to his interest. From this he will not, if he acts from principle, swerve through the influence of "fear, favour, or affection." But he will not, on the other hand, allow himself to indulge any unhallowed feeling which may prompt him to forget, that it is not his province to war with men, but with measures, and with such measures *only*, as appear to be legitimate subjects for reprehension. Such a standard, it is equally my wish, as it has been my endeavour to act up to;

"Rather extenuating, than setting down aught in "malice." †

* Such a course cannot (at least to a man possessed of generous feelings) but be repulsive, under ordinary circumstances; how much more so then, where a writer is a resident of the town of which he essays to give the History; and in the habit of frequent intercourse with persons, of whose conduct as public men (whilst he regards them with sincere respect as individual members of society) he cannot, as a faithful historian, always speak in terms of commendation.

† "Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—*Shakespeare.*

The subscribers will be desirous of knowing what the remainder of the volume is to contain. Independent of what may be termed common-place articles in a work like this—a chronological list of occurrences—modern state of the town—trade—public edifices and institutions—population, &c., &c., will be found many possessing an unusual degree of interest, among which may be noticed the following:—An account of the proceedings of the public Authorities of Barnstaple during the Rebellion in the reign of Charles the first, including the minutes of meetings held to provide for the defence of the town, and a minute detail of expenses incurred in various warlike operations.—Curious document relative to the bridge, 1535—full translations of some, and extracts from other of the numerous charters* granted to the borough—an abstract of the Bye-laws of the Corporation—List of Mayors from 1304, and of Members of Parliament from the twenty third of Edward the first—Transcripts of the several Inquisitions relative to the customs and privileges of the Borough, made in the reign of Edward the third, and of a similar document of a still earlier date.

Of the execution of the work I hold myself incompetent to form a correct judgment, still less am I qualified to give an opinion on the subject; but as it respects the *matter* on which what is now published, and that

* No apprehension need be entertained that these will prove "a long detail of dry and uninteresting matter;" the early charters are all of them very short; the only one of any length, which will be given in full, is comparatively modern, and will be found to possess a good deal of interest.

which is to succeed it, are founded, I may, and can, with the utmost confidence, assure those who may do me the honour to place part the first of Memorials of Barnstaple on their book-shelves, that part the second will be found to exceed it in interest.

My humble work will perhaps be read by some who can look back on the time when, as authors, they first placed themselves at the bar of public opinion; *they* will be able to judge correctly of the feelings of which I am the subject on the present occasion.

I have, however, enlisted, and must now make, at least, one campaign in the Field of Literature, before I can seek a discharge; whether it shall prove successful or unfortunate,—whether I shall come off with whole, or tattered colours,—is, at best, doubtful. My work is before the public; they will be the judges of its merits, and the arbiters of its fate; to their decision I *must* submit, and will therefore await it, "with what philosophy I may."

J. B. Gibble

Barum, March, 1830.

MEMORIALS OF BARNSTAPLE,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

Derivation of Name—Situation—Soil—Ancient History—Descent of the Castle Manor—Barnstaple Castle—Priory of St. Mary Magdalen—Manor of Hogg's Fee—Old Town—Chapels and Chauntries—Appendix.

BARNSTAPLE, or Barum*, like most ancient towns, has, during the lapse of ages, and a succession of rulers,

* Barnstaple is so well known by this appellation, that a letter sent from any part of England directed to Barum, would reach its destination. I am unable to say more in explanation of the term, than that it is taken as the Latin for Barnstaple. *Query*—Why not the Roman name of the town? Its not having been so recorded, is no positive evidence against the hypothesis. *Yarum*, the *ancient* name of Yare, in Yorkshire, is not in the Roman Itinerary.

Since the above was penned, a clergyman residing near Salisbury, has kindly furnished me with the various etymologies of *Sarum*; none of them however, throw (as I had hoped they might) any light on the origin of the term we have been discussing. The gentleman

been variously named. Leland says, " the olde name " of the towne was in the Britaine Tunge Abertawe, " by cause it stood toward the mouth of Tawe Ryver." This the Saxons changed to Berdenestaple; corrupted, as Leland supposes, from Abernesse, with the addition of staple, for a market. It may be found in the following public documents, designated thus :—

In Domesday Book, Barnestaple;—Exon Domesday, Bardestaple, Barnestable; — Records in the Tower, reign of Edward the First, Berdstaple; — Edward the Third, Barnastaple, Barnestapel, Berdstapel; — Richard the Second, Barnastaple;—Henry the Eighth, Barnestapoll, alias Barstaple. Leland writes it Berstaple; —Risdon and Prince, Barnstaple.

SITUATION.

Barnstaple stands on the North Bank of the River Taw*, in the Deanery to which it gives name, and in the Hundred of Braunton, Devonshire†. It occupies

referred to suggests the following as the derivation of *Barum*:— " Johnson derives the word *Barren*, from the Saxon, *Bare*. " Whatever the country about Barnstaple may be *now*, it is easy " to imagine that it once sufficiently answered to the meaning of " barren, to make the term applicable to it as an etymology."

Another gentleman offers as a definition, " Barum, Heb. Bâr. " either grain or open country; the market town, or town in the " vale."

* From Tav, of the same signification as Tavy, Taivy, Teivi; a Water or River.—*Chapple's Add. to Risdon.*

† Anciently called Devonia, Dommonia, Danmonia, Domnonia; and in Exon Domesday, Devenescira, Devrescira.

a central position between the undermentioned towns;

SOUTHMOLTON	11½ Miles.
ILFRACOMBE	11½ „
TORRINGTON	10¼ „
BIDEFORD	8 „
APPLEDORE, via Bideford	11 „
„ „ *Instow Ferry*	8 „

It is situated in longitude 4° 4′ w.; latitude 51° 12′ N.; distant from

LONDON, *via* Taunton and Salisbury . .	192½ Miles
„ „ Bristol and Bath	217¼ „
BRISTOL, *via* Taunton and Bridgewater .	96½ „
„ „ **Simonsbath, Dunster,* and *Bridgewater* . . .	87 „
„ „ *Simonsbath, Dunster, Stogursey, Pawlet,* and *Cross*	80 „
BATH	96¾ „
EXETER, *via* Chumleigh and Crediton . .	37½ „
„ „ Southmolton and Chumleigh	41 „
TAUNTON	51 „
PLYMOUTH	57½ „
FALMOUTH, *via* Oakhampton and Launceston	100½ „
„ „ *Holsworthy* and *Launceston*	95 „
SWANSEA, across the Channel from Ilfracombe	35 „
LINTON, (Valley of Rocks)	18 „
CLOVELLY	20 „

The distances of places not printed in italics, are copied from Mogg's edition of Patterson's roads. The remainder have also been procured from authentic sources.

* Persons travelling on horseback, will find the ride over Exmoor a very pleasant one in summer. The spirited improvements made

I cannot better describe the situation of the town, with its surrounding scenery, than in the following language, borrowed from a modern tourist. I make the extract more readily, because it is from the pen of a stranger; such a picture, if drawn by a native, might, perhaps, be thought too highly coloured:—

"As we approach Barnstaple, the view from some "of the high grounds is very grand; composed on "one side of Barnstaple Bay, and on the other of an "extensive vale, the Vale of Tawton, carrying the eye "far and wide into its rich and ample bosom; although "it is one of those views which is too great a subject "for painting. The approach to Barnstaple from the "low grounds, is as beautiful as from the higher; the "river, the bridge, the hills beyond it, and the estuary "in the distance, make, altogether, a good landscape. "The town itself, also situated about nine or ten miles "from the sea, stands in a pleasant vale, shut in by "hills, forming a semi-lunar cove around it. When "the tides are high, it is almost insulated; the flat "grounds which lie immediately about it, make an "agreeable contrast with the hills. Once these grounds

by J. Knight, Esq. have quite changed the face of this extensive, and once barren waste. The first effect of this gentleman's liberal outlay of capital, was an excellent road, extending throughout *his* allotment of the forest; (as it is commonly termed, though scarcely a tree is to be found throughout the whole tract.) It is much to be regretted that Mr. Knight's intention of making good the small portion of road that remains, should have been thwarted by the opposition of another proprietor. The worst of it is, however, passable in a carriage. There is a respectable inn at Simonsbath, which is sixteen miles from Barnstaple, and fifteen from Dunster.

" were little better than marshes; but by proper " draining, they are now become beautiful meadows. " In a word, ***Barnstaple is the pleasantest town we " have met with in the West of England.***"— ***Gilpin's Observations on the Western parts of England.***

SOIL.

The soil of Barnstaple consists chiefly of a stiff yellow clay*, intermixed with small pebbles, and extending from within two feet of the surface, to seven or eight feet in depth, where a stratum of beach is found, usually about four feet in thickness; after which comes a soft (shelfy†) rock. This has been excavated to the extent of forty feet, and found to be the same throughout. Water of an excellent quality is almost invariably met with near the top of this rock, so that wells are scarcely ever required to be sunk to a greater depth than from ten to fifteen feet. These several strata are in one place intersected by two veins of stone, each about twenty feet wide, and running parallel, fifteen or sixteen feet apart, in a southerly direction from Hardaway Head down to the river. One of these is a bastard limestone (Elvin†), excessively hard; the other is of a softer description, and contains mundic and spar. It is also accompanied by a blue clay (Flugen†), which has been cut through to the depth of twenty feet, and contains springs of soft water.

* The town and neighbourhood are supplied with bricks, made from this material.

† So termed by miners.

ENQUIRY INTO THE ANCIENT HISTORY OF THE TOWN.

Of the history of Barnstaple previous to the Norman conquest, little is known; there is, however, much to be said in favour of its pretensions to high antiquity.

Tradition informs us that Athelstan, after driving the ancient inhabitants of Danmonia* beyond the Tamar, on his return from Cornwall, took up his abode in Barnstaple for a short time. We are told from the same source, that, finding the town walls in a decayed state, he caused them to be repaired, and subsequently built a castle here.

The following remarks are offered on the foregoing statement, as being quite consistent with a desire to give it no more than its due weight in the scale of evidence.

First, then, we are not called upon in receiving this account as true, to believe a mystery. Tradition, which so delights in romance, here states nothing but what is likely to have occurred in the ordinary course of things. What more probable, than that Athelstan, after having expelled his troublesome foes, the Britons, from the North of Devon, should take measures to secure the district from invasion and plunder, which he might justly fear, both from the enemies he had just expelled,

* *Devon* and *Cornwall*, until the days of King Athelstan, did, from the beginning, continue one province, under the common name of *Danmonia*. *Athelstan*, coming with a mighty army, after sundry conflicts, at length drives the *Brittains* over the Tamar into *Cornwall*; upon which the inhabitants of these two provinces at first obtained the distinction of the Eastern and Western Danmonii. —*Prince's Worthies of Devon—Introd.*

and also from the Danes, both of whom had, by turns, infested and ravaged this part of Wessex* ?

Secondly,—Barnstaple was exactly suited for the establishment of a military station, both as to its local situation, and the facilities it possessed for being easily fortified; even supposing it not to have been then walled. If we believe, as with good reason we may, that the Monarch visited the town at this period, we cannot refuse our assent to the remainder of the tradition †.

* One of the seven kingdoms of the Saxon heptarchy. It comprehended the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wilts, Hants, and Berks. Was founded A. D. 529, and finally swallowed up all the other states, which were united in 827 into one monarchy.

† The circumstance of Athelstan's having certainly frequented the neighbourhood of Barnstaple, must not be overlooked; it affords fair presumptive evidence in favour of the tradition. Risdon tells us that he had a palace at Umberleigh*; that he founded a church at Atherington, which he endowed with two hides of land; and another, similarly endowed, at High Bickington. Of the latter, he says,—" The church of Bickington was founded by King Athelstane, " who gave to God and it one hide of land, as appeareth by the " donation, a copy whereof, for the antiquity thereof, I here insert. " ' Iche Athelstane King, Grome of this home, geve and graunt to " ' the preist of this Chirch, one Yoke of mye Land frelith to holde, " ' wood in my holt† House to buyld, bitt grass for all hys beasts, " ' fuel for hys Hearth, pannage‡ for hys sowe and piggs, world " ' without End." '

* In the parish of Atherington, about six miles from Barnstaple, and three from High Bickington. The house bears evident marks of great antiquity.

† Saxon term for a wood.

‡ The feeding of swine upon mast in the woods; also, the money paid for such a license.—*Bailey*.

Lastly,—If there be no direct evidence in favour of the presumption that King Athelstan founded the castle, there is certainly none *against* it. Except this Monarch, the work has only been attributed to Judhael de Totnes, who is said by some to have built, by others to have rebuilt, and by others to have repaired and beautified the edifice. That he should have improved and made additions to the castle, on being presented with the Manor by his Royal Master, is probable enough; but there does not appear to be any ground for believing that it owed its origin to Judhael de Totnes.

The privileges with which Athelstan is said to have endowed Barnstaple, will come under our consideration in another part of this work.

DOMESDAY.

That interesting and important national register, Domesday Book*, contains several articles relating to Barnstaple, and those persons who had possessions

*An ancient and most valuable record, made by order of William the Conqueror; and containing a register, from which judgment was to be given upon the value, tenure, and services of all lands in England, except the counties of Durham, Cumberland, Northumberland, and Westmoreland, which were not included in the survey. The title by which this book is known, is of very uncertain origin. The vulgar notion that it takes its name from *Doomsday*, as being unerring and final in its decisions, is unworthy of being adopted. A more probable supposition is, that which Stow refers to in the Book of Bermondsey, where it is said to have been laid up in the King's Treasury, in a place called *Domus Dei*, whence the corruption of Domesday.—*Ency. Metropol.*

therein, in the reign of William the Conqueror.—Transcripts of these, with a translation, will be found in the Appendix [A] to this chapter. Both having been procured from the Keeper of His Majesty's Records, their correctness may be relied on. Extracts are also given from "Exon Domesday." The curious but authentic picture which Domesday Book presents of the degrading state of vassalage in which the great body of our progenitors were out their existence, cannot but render it interesting to all who feel the value of the privileges, which, as Englishmen, they now enjoy*.

We must now treat of Barnstaple, as forming three distinct properties;—the Castle Manor, comprising the ancient Burgh or Town within the Walls;—the Fee of Magdalene, or Priory of Saint Mary Magdalene;—and the Manor of Hog's Fee. The two former, if not the latter (which had probably only a Court Baron), exercised separate jurisdictions, down to the reign of James the First.

* During one period of the feudal system, a vassal, though he might be a person of some rank, could not marry without the consent of his Lord, and that permission he was often obliged to purchase. His superior might compel him to marry whom he pleased, or invest with a similar power any one to whom he chose to sell it. When a tenant died, his heir became the Lord's ward; during his minority he was exposed to insult and oppression, and when he became of an age to claim his property, he was made to pay whatever sum might be demanded of him, before he could obtain it. It was not until the thirty-second of Henry the Eighth, that any man could devise his own property; previous to this time, the *privilege* was confined to a few cities and boroughs only.

THE CASTLE MANOR.

This Manor was granted by William the Conqueror, soon after his accession, to one of his favourites,
1067, William the Conqueror. } JUDHAEL DE TOTNES, a distinguished Norman, son of Alured, Earl of Brittany. Judhael retained the barony during the life of his Royal Patron, but was dispossessed of it by his successor, and banished the kingdom. He had no doubt taken a part in the revolt from William Rufus, in which so many of the Norman barons engaged; and as the penalty of which they paid the forfeiture of their newly-acquired honors.
1087, William Rufus. } WILLIAM RUFUS kept the Manor in his own hands during his reign; as did also
1100, Henry the First. } HENRY THE FIRST; from whom it passed as crown property to
1135, Stephen } STEPHEN; who bestowed it on HENRY DE TRACY, by whom it was enjoyed during that King's reign; but on the accession of Henry the Second, the property* was divided, a purparty
1154, Henry the Second. } being given to *William de Broase*, great grandson of Judhael de Totnes; in which state it
1189, Richard the First. } remained until the seventh year of Richard the First, when de Broase purchased the remainder of the barony from Oliver de Tracy (son and heir of

* The Manor is here termed "The Honour and Castle of Barum." Honour is particularly applied in the English customs to the more noble kind of Seignories or Lordships, whereof other inferior Lordships or Manors depend. As a Manor consists of several Tenements, Services, Customs, &c. so an Honour contains divers Manors, Knight's Fees, &c.—*Enc. Perthen.*

Henry de Tracy); one of the conditions of the sale was, an annuity of £20 per annum. He thus became possessed of the whole Manor, but did not long enjoy
1199, John. } it, for soon after, in the reign of King John, "being fallen into displeasure upon suspicion, y^e Kinge "tooke against hym, flyeth into France, and there "died*; his wief and eldest sonne William were "emprisoned, and famished unto death." The estate again reverted to the crown, but a portion of it was given to HENRY DE TRACY; the other moiety was restored to REGINALD DE BROASE, son of William,
1216, Henry the Third. } in the reign of Henry the Third, this came back to the crown about the end of that reign ‡.

1272, Edward the First. } OLIVER DE TRACY (who inherited a moiety of the Manor from Henry de Tracy) dying in 1273, his portion came by virtue of a marriage with his only daughter, Eve, to

GUY DE BRIENNE, through whose daughter, Maude, it came by marriage first to

NICHOLAS, LORD MARTYN, and afterwards to her second husband,

* His grandson (son of the Lord Reginald Broase) met a still more ignominious fate; "in the 14 ycere of King H. 3, he was "hanged by Leolin, Prince of Wales, whoe tooke him in adultery "w^th his wief."

† The Barony of Barnstaple had, at this period, twenty-eight Knight's Fees attached to it.

‡ No subsequent distinct notice is taken of this moiety of the property; probably it was given to the possessor of the other portion, without any record of the grant being preserved.

1307, Edward the Second. } JEFFERY DE CAMVILLE *, who died in 1308; when it descended by inheritance to WILLIAM, LORD MARTYN, son of Lord Nicholas Martyn, and Lady Maud. His death took place in 1314. He left issue, by Elinor, daughter of Reginald Fitzpiers, and widow of John Lord Mohun, of Dunster, three children—William, Elinor, and Joan. Elinor was married, but died without issue. Joan married Nicholas Lord Audleigh, of Heleigh; she died in 1322. Her brother, WILLIAM LORD MARTYN, of Ceamoys, Dartington, and Barnstaple, succeeded to his father's honours; he married Margaret, daughter of John Lord Hastings, but died in 1325, leaving no issue; and the barony fell, consequently, to his elder sister,

1327, Edward the Third. } ELINOR, *wife of Phillip de Columbiers;* who, leaving no heir, the estate came, in the seventeenth of Edward the Third, to

JAMES LORD AUDLEIGH†, of Heleigh and Rougemont,

* A writ of Quo Warranto was served on Jeffery, to shew by what right he exercised certain privileges. — *See Chronological Record*, A.D. 1281.

† Prince says this nobleman was born either at Dartington or Barnstaple, and "that the Castle at Barnstaple was the place of "his principal mansion and inhabitance." The same historian speaks much of the "Heroic Acts of this Right Noble Lord;" particularly of "that immortal action of his at Poictiers, in France, "which of itself is sufficient to eternize his memory. The Knight, "with his four esquires, went to the foremost front of all the battle, "and there did marvels of arms. This, his noble conduct and "valour, so pleased the brave prince (Edward the Third), that as "a testimony thereof he settled five hundred marks in land upon

by virtue of his descent from Joan Martyn. His Lordship was twice married. His first wife was Joan, daughter of Roger Mortimer, by whom he had issue, Nicholas, Roger, and Joan. His second, Isabel, daughter of Lord Strange; by her he had one
1377, Richard the Second. } daughter, Margaret. He died in 1385, having made an entail of the barony to his heirs male, with a remainder in the crown, and which now descended to his eldest son,

NICHOLAS LORD AUDLEIGH, who survived his father but four years, and died without issue. His brother, Roger, having been some time deceased, the male line of this noble family became extinct, and the Manor, by virtue of the entail, became once more vested in the crown.

RICHARD THE SECOND granted it to

ROBERT VERE, *Earl of Oxford*, who was to hold it only until the conquest of Ireland should be accomplished; after which, Richard gave it to his brother-in-law,

" him in England, of annual revenue; a considerable estate in those " days. The noble-minded Knight divided this gift between his " four esquires, saying, they had deserved it as well as he, and had " more need of it. The generous prince, highly pleased hereat, " praised his bounty as much as his valour, and so doubled his " former pension to him into a thousand marks a year."

" He appointed that there should be about his corpse five great " tapers, and five mortars of wax, burning on the day of his funeral; " as also £40 sterling then distributed to poor people, to pray for " his soul; and to the monks of Hilton Abbey £10, to pray for " his soul." — *Prince's Worthies of Devon.* — See also *Baker's Chronicles*, p. 124.

JOHN HOLLAND, *Duke of Exeter*, who was executed
1399, Henry the Fourth. } by King Henry the Fourth, in the second year of his reign. It does not clearly appear by whom the Manor was held during this and the two succeeding reigns; but various individuals are supposed to have had grants of it, probably for short periods. In the reign
1461, Edward the Fourth. } of Edward the Fourth, we find it given by that Prince to his Queen; the next grant we
1483, Richard the Third. } find recorded is by Richard the Third, in the first year of his reign, who gave the "Castle and "Borough of Barnstaple," to

THOMAS EVINGHAM, who enjoyed the honour for but
1485, Henry the Seventh. } a short period. In the first of Henry the seventh it was granted to

SIR JOHN ST. LEGER, who was also soon deprived of it; the Monarch bestowing the Manor on his own mother, THE COUNTESS OF RICHMOND, for her life. This last grant was made in 1487, subsequent to which no particular account can be given of the Barony, until the reign of

1553, Mary. } QUEEN MARY, when it was finally alienated from the crown by that Princess, who granted it, by letters patent, to

THOMAS MARROW, of the county of Warwick, Esq. from whom it came, by hereditary descent, to his son, SAMUEL MARROW, who, in the eighth year of the reign
1558, Elizabeth. } of Elizabeth, sold it to

SIR JOHN CHICHESTER, Knight*, for the sum of four

* The BARONETCY now enjoyed by this family, was not conferred until 1651.

hundred guineas*; who, by a deed of confirmation and release, bearing date August 17th in the same year, conveyed the Manor, with all its Privileges, Rents, Market Tolls, &c. excepting only the site of the Castle, which he reserved, to

THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION *of Barnstaple*. The terms of sale were as follows:—A rent in perpetuity of fourteen pounds eighteen shillings, and two fish dinners annually; the Bailiff, on paying the said rent, to receive back one shilling, for the use of the Corporation, for every Court there held in a year, towards the Sheriff's

* It is worthy of notice, that the Barony of Barnstaple was, in the reign of Henry the Third, valued at £420 per annum; £15, (or two hundred acres of land) being then the worth of a Knight's Fee. The difference in the relative value of the pound of silver coin *alone* made that sum equal to £1,260 at this period; but if we take into account the proportionate value [*see Appendix*, B] of money and merchandize in the two reigns, we cannot possibly rate a property which, in the time of Henry the Third, was worth £420, at *less* than £4,200 in the reign of Elizabeth. Thus it appears, that the Manor of Old Barum went off at the inglorious sum of one tenth of a single year's purchase of its former value. Whence this enormous depreciation? It is to be accounted for in two ways. *First*,—It is *probable*, that in the valuation made of the Borough in the reign of Henry the Third, was included the variously named imposts, by which, in common with other places, it contributed to the public revenue; all of which were either abolished, or merged into a general land tax; but as we cannot in this way account for all the deficiency, we premise, *Secondly*, that most of the tangible property belonging to the Borough must have been alienated from it by successive proprietors. One thing is, however, certain; that in whatever way the Manor became thus reduced in value, but little more than "*the honour*" of it fell to Mr. Marrow.

dinner; and also four-pence for proclaiming every such Court, to the use of the said Bailiff.

The "Fish Dinners" were compounded for, about the year 1774, in a way highly creditable to the one party, and very beneficial to the other (*see Charities, under "Paige's Gift"*), as it presumed the cost of such dinners would now more than double the annual rent.

The most remarkable circumstance connected with the descent of the Manor of Barnstaple, to its present proprietors, remains to be recorded; namely, that at the time Sir John Chichester became the purchaser of it, it was *mortgaged to the Corporation, for two hundred pounds.*

The question naturally arises — Why did not that body (who, as mortgagees of the property, undoubtedly might have done so) purchase it themselves? We can imagine but one reply to this query; that the state of their funds was such as to make it more desirable to *add* two hundred pounds to their coffers, than it was then convenient to withdraw a similar amount. Nothing surely but an absolute want of money could have prevented their making so desirable a contract; it will however be seen, that their subsequent speculation was by no means a bad one.

The Castle Court Rental, which probably consists of nominal rents paid on lands virtually sold, at a remote period, produces but a trifling fixed sum. The Tolls, on the contrary, have progressively increased to upwards of ten times their amount in the fifteenth year

of the reign of Elizabeth. The whole income derived by the Corporation from the Manor, is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Castle Court Rents, in sums of One Penny and upwards, (averaging, on 114 distinct properties, 1*s.* 1½*d.* each)	6	11	9¾
Penny-Halfpenny*, comprising all Tolls received (the Sheep Market and Tollsery excepted) from the Market, and during the Annual Fair	107	0	0
Sheep Market, (including the Horse Fair)	46	0	0
Tollsery, or Toll paid on Horned Cattle sold at the Fair	6	10	0
	£166	1	9¾

The Tolls are let by auction annually, in the month of November. The sums above stated are what they produced at the last letting; the takers paying all outgoings. Thus, after deducting the rent of the property, and what is paid in lieu of the fish dinners, there remains a clear yearly surplus of £149 11*s.* 9*d.* being full nine hundred per cent. on the outlay.

* This singular term for a toll, has its origin in a penny being demanded for every pair of panniers pitched in the market, and a half-penny for a basket. I find the impost to have been collected under this name, nearly three centuries back.

Earl Fortescue claims, for the occupiers of certain of his Lordship's estates, comprising the Manors of *Filleigh, North Aller, High Bray, Bremridge, East Buckland, and Challacombe,* Exemption from all Fair and Market Dues. The tenants are furnished with a certificate, as follows:—

Without good evidence of the fact, we might well doubt that a baronial fortress had ever reared its head on the spot which we know to have been once the site of such an edifice. All that remains of the CASTLE OF BARNSTAPLE, consists of remnants of two or three massive stone walls, now incorporated with the interior of a modern mansion—*The Castle House.*

In the absence of all data by which to direct our enquiries, it would be idle to speculate on the probable extent of the ancient structure; Leland speaks of the ruins of a "*great* Castle;" but this must be here taken as a very indefinite term.

No distinct mention is made of the Castle as a building, from the time of Judhael de Totnes, until the twelfth

"Whereas the Manor of is Antient Demesne "Lands, and held under his Majesty's Castle and Manor of "and being so Antient Demesne Lands, the tenants "and resiants thereof are free from the payment of all sum or "sums of money that are or may be demanded for Toll, in any "Fair or Market, held within the realm of England, as well for "Cattle or Goods by them bought, as for Cattle or Goods which "they may sell, according to the Law of this Kingdom.

"These are therefore to Certify," &c. &c.

The following Noblemen and Gentlemen claim a similar exemption for the respective manors and estates named, situate in the neighbourhood of Barnstaple:—

His Grace the Duke of Bedford, for the Manor of *Bishop's Tawton*, comprising the parishes of Bishop's Tawton, Landkey, and Swymbridge.

year of the reign of Henry the Third, when its walls were ordered to be reduced to the height of ten feet*. It does not appear that this edict, which, if strictly obeyed, would have virtually demolished the building, was complied with; as the Castle was certainly habitable more than half a century subsequent to this period. An inquisition was taken in 1282, for the purpose of enquiring into some dispute between the Lord of the Town and the inhabitants, in which the latter maintain as follows:—"We say that we have "synginge in the Chapele of the Castle, the whiche "shalle be there put at the wille of the Lord, certyne "Rentes being assynged of old Tyme to susteyne "the foresaid Chauntry. Sir Walter Chepleyn of "Fremyngton gave a furlonge of Land in Frelingcote "and twenty shillings of annuale Rente."

How much longer it was kept up, we have no means of judging. Leland, whose Itinerary was published in 1542, saw its "Ruins and a Piece of the Dungeon;" and Phillip Wyott tells us that part of the wall was blown down in 1601†.

By the summary of disbursements made during the civil wars, 1642-4, we find that a considerable sum was

Lord Rolle, for the Manors of *Landkey*, and *Braunton Gorges.*

Sir Arthur Chichester, Bart. for the Manors of *Sherwill, Bratton Flemming*, and *Stoke Rivers.*

Sir Humphry Davy, Bart. for *Hill Estate.*

Joseph Davie Bassett, Esq. for the Manor of *Heanton Punchardon.*

George Acland Barbor, Esq. for the Manor of *Fremington.*

* The number of Castles in England, amounted, at this time, to 1,115.

† See Chron. Record.

then expended in *fortifying the Castle* *. It is very questionable whether this had reference to any thing more than to the *Tower* or *Mount;* and perhaps some temporary erections (" platforms") below it, as nothing like a building, or the ruins of one, can be traced on the site of the Castle, on a plan of the town, drawn in 1584 †, whilst the wall ‡ and battlements on the mound appear entire; it is therefore to be presumed, that even in Wyott's time, nothing remained of the Castle but a heap of ruins; and that both he and the Chronicler of the Record referred to, applied the term Castle to the tower, as being the only part which retained the semblance of a fortification.

Lord Clarendon speaks of the town as being " well " fortified " during the rebellion; but we cannot reconcile the supposition that this was then applicable to the *Castle*, with the reference made to it on a public trial§ in little more than eighty years afterwards, a period much too short to admit of the probability that its having then exhibited " the pomp and circumstance " of war " could have been wholly forgotten.

The Castle Green was made the scene of a public execution in 1590 ‖.

For more than a hundred and forty years after Sir John Chichester became possessed of the Manor, the Castle grounds lay open to the public; but about the year 1705, Sir Arthur Chichester leased the property to an individual named Gibbs. This person shut out the public by

* See Civil Wars.

† A description of which, see in this Chapter.

‡ A part of the foundation still remains.

§ See Appendix [c.]

‖ See Chron Record.

enclosing the premises, on which he built a public house, and a limekiln*. Gibbs's lease expired with himself in about fifteen years from its commencement. During the life time of the lessee, the inhabitants of the town had asserted their right to the free use of the lawn and mount, by breaking down the enclosures, and ranging over the premises; so that for several years after Gibbs's death, no one could be found to take another lease. At length Sir John Chichester's steward had one granted to him for three lives, at the nominal price of ten guineas. The grounds were now more closely fenced, and the inhabitants, being wholly excluded, "murmured "against the Corporation," for not interfering on their behalf.

George the Second being proclaimed King, June 20th, 1727, the Mayor, on that occasion, gave directions to have a bonfire made on the Tower, which was done, and a barrel of ale drank. This trespass was made the subject of an action at law, which the Corporation promptly defended. It appeared however on the trial, that the town did not possess the right which they claimed, and thus lost their "sporting place†."

The first important improvement made at the Castle House, was effected by William Wavell, M.D. about 1790. At this period, whilst excavating the ground

* This stood on the site of the present walled enclosure, at the East end of the North Walk; it was removed about twenty years since.

† In the Appendix [c.] will be found an extract from the *original* brief, held by defendant's counsel on this trial. It is considered to be worth preserving, both as containing a description of the old Castle precincts, and a record of some of the customs of our ancestors.

within the space enclosed by the old walls before alluded to, a perfect skeleton was found, lying in a kind of vault*; the area is thought to have been the Castle Chapel. From the depth at which the bones were found, it would appear that the ground has been raised much above its ancient level.

Whilst these alterations were making, chance also brought to light a seal, on which was deeply cut a man robed, standing under a niched canopy, with a sword in his right hand, and a book in his left; at his feet a man was kneeling, and offering a scroll; round these figures was deeply cut, "Gratiâ Dei sum id quod sum." The seal was very antique in its fashion, and made of a kind of bronze; the letters were Saxon.

The premises, which have been progressively improving for the last thirty years, now present a very inviting aspect. The house is genteel and commodious; the gardens are both usefully and ornamentally stocked; the mount and lawn are tastefully laid out with trees and shrubs, and the residence altogether is a very charming one.

The present occupier is R. W. Grace, Esq. as tenant to Philip Bremridge, Esq. who holds the property of Sir Arthur Chichester, Bart. under a lease granted by the late Sir John Chichester, in 1784, for ninety-nine years, determinable on the death of three lives, but with a covenant of renewal, on payment of a fine of £50. The premises now produce a clear rental of £100 per annum.

* The remains, it may be, of some renowned warrior, or dignified ecclesiastic, still occupy (under a slab in the wine cellar) the same "narrow house" in which they were discovered.

BARNSTAPLE PRIORY.

(*Arms*—Gules, a Bend, Or, a Label of three Points Argent.)

This was a Priory of cluniac monks, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene. It was founded in the reign of William the Conqueror, by Joel (or Judhael) de Totnes, and made dependent on St. Martin's in the Fields, near Paris. Joel grants* to the religious, Pilton, with the Wood and Marsh, Pilland, the Mill at Barnstaple, all the Land without the walls between the north and east gates, with all the Waters, Fish, &c.; moreover, the Church of Barnstaple, the Chapel of Sabinus, with their appurtenances, two parts of the Tythe of Fremington, and the whole Tythe of Fish.

The community, it appears from Bishop Bronescombe's Register, consisted of thirteen members. Being an alien Priory, its revenues were frequently seized during the wars between England and France, but was made denizen, probably about the time of Henry the Sixth, and so continued until the general suppression of monastries.

* A Copy of the Deed of Foundation may be seen in Dug. Mon. vol. i. p. 684. Tanner, however, says that it "is not that of the "Foundation, but a second Grant."—King William, Henry the First, and William, Bishop of Exon, confirmed Joel's donations, and his descendants. Henry de Tracy, and William de Broase, added their respective Charters; the former dated in 1146. The whole of these Grants may be found in the Monast. Ang.

The Registers supply the following series of the Priors, from the year 1265 *:—

1.—Simon Gurneye, admitted Prior, . August 1265
2.—Theobald de Curtipalatio, . . 29th June, 1275
3.—John 1314
4.—John de Sanctâ Gemmâ.—He scandalously neglected the duty of residence, and was obliged to tender his resignation to Bishop Grandison, in the year 1332
5.—John Soyer, succeeded . . . March 18, 1334
6.—Imbertus de Gaumachiis, admitted on the death of John Soyer . . . . Dec. 10, 1334
7.—Reginaldus Pirdoc, succeeded . Dec. 9, 1349
and resigned in the summer of 1351.
8.—Roger Hayn, admitted . . . . . Nov. 7, 1351
9.—Richard Carre, or Cary, succeeded; he died late in 1376
10.—Ralph Chelfham; he died in 1392
11.—Henry Sutton, succeeded . . . May 28, 1392
he died in 1398
12.—Simon Sele, admitted . . . . . Sept. 1398
died June 15, 1428
13.—Hugh Lyton, succeeded . . . July 28, 1428
died Dec. 16, 1461
14.—John Pylton was confirmed as his successor, 1461
15.—John Ilfracombe; he resigned in . . . 1502
16.—John Pylton followed, and after governing the Priory sixteen years, retired on a Pension of £20.

* Richard is mentioned in Prynne's Records as Prior in 1226, and Normanus occurs, but without date, in the Charter of William de Braiosa.—*Tanner's Not. Mon.*

17.—Robert Thorn, the last Prior, succeeded August 12th . . . . . } 1518

He surrendered his Convent to the King's Commissioners, the 4th of February, in the twenty-seventh year of King Henry the Eighth, 1535, and was allowed a pension of £14 per annum for life*. He was alive in Barnstaple in 1555, having certified, February the 2nd in that year, that the tenants of the house of Magdalene paid the Quintadecima †.

Risdon says,—"this Prior, for his device, bare a roe-buck "leaning to a hawthorn, in an escutcheon, with the word "'Bert' interposed, and this underwritten;—Capram cum "spina protegat divina potestas." Westcote ‡ gives the "motto Capram cum spina protegat potestas divina."

The revenues of the Priory are stated by Dugdale to have been valued at £129 6s. 7d.; by Speed at £129 15s. 8d. §

The Taxatio contains the following items :—

	£	s.	d.
Prior de Barnstapol percipit in capellis de Clifton and Hatheline	0	3	0
In ecclesiâ de Barnstapol	1	10	0
In ecclesiâ de Ffremyton	0	8	0
In eccia de Hamme (George)	2	0	0
In Decanatu Barum de terris and redditibus	2	10	0
Apud Waleworthi et Kymelonde tax ad . .	0	15	0

* Robert Britte was, in 1542, in the enjoyment of a pension of forty shillings per annum, granted him in 1520, by the Augmentation Court.

† See Chron. Record.

‡ Manuscript Description of Devon in Exeter Cathedral.

§ The sum mentioned by Risdon (£223 6s. 7d.) must have been a typographical error.

In the grant to Lord Howard (see Appendix), the undermentioned sums appear to have been paid annually to the Convent of St. Mary Magdalene:—

	£	s.	d.
By the Vicar of Barnstaple	5	0	0
„ Rector of Georgeham	5	0	0
„ Borough of Barnstaple* (or Castle Manor)	2	0	0
„ Rector of Fremington	1	10	0

Leland tells us that Philip de Columbers, his wife, and some of the Barons of Slane, in Ireland, were interred in Barnstaple Priory. "In the garden of this "Priory (writes Risdon) was lately the proportion of "a knight, lying cross-legged, with his sword and "shield, seeming to be one that had vowed a voyage "into the Holy Land for that sacred warfare; removed "out of the church, doubtless, at the dissolution."

About two years after the surrender of the Priory to Henry the Eighth, that monarch granted it†, with

* A deed has, during the present year, been discovered at Tawstock House, which, there can be scarcely a doubt, has reference to this identical annuity. It is a license under the Great Seal, dated York, 26th January, in the 7th year of the reign of Edward the Third, empowering Sir Philip de Columbers (then Lord of Barum), and Alionora, his wife, to endow their perpetual Chantry Priest with forty shillings annual rent, issuing from lands in Barnstaple. The said Priest was to officiate daily, *singulis diebus celebraturus*. Part of the deed is in such a decayed state, as not to place it *wholly* beyond doubt that the Chantry referred to was in St. Mary Magdalene's Priory; but the fact that both Philip de Columbers and his wife were interred there, may be considered as supplying this chasm in the evidence.

† For a Copy of this Grant, see Appendix [D.]

its valuable estates *, to William Lord Howard, of Effingham, and Margaret his wife.

King James the First, by letters patent, dated 12th of February, 1607, granted the reversion *in fee* to William Lord Howard, son and heir apparent of Charles Howard, Earl of Nottingham, Lord High Admiral of England, son and heir of Lord Howard, the first grantee.

William Lord Howard, as appears by indenture, enrolled in Chancery, bearing date the 29th of March, 1613, granted the site of the Priory, with the Rectory, Advowson, and most of the Landed Property, to

Reginald Portree, from whom it descended to his two daughters; one of these conveyed it by marriage to ——— Sydenham, Esq.; after which it came into a family named Northmore.

The remaining part or parts of the Priory Estates, Lord Howard disposed of about the same period, some "unto divers people for divers long Terms of Years." One of the sales consisted of "The capital Messuage, "Barton, and Farm of Potyngton in Pilton and "Barnstaple, late Parcel of St. Mary Magdalene, with "Port Mills, and a House and Garden in Boutport "Street, belonging to the same." This estate, which is sometimes called the "Manor of Maudlyn," was

* Not content with these, we find Lord Howard, in 1538, setting up a claim to the soil of Boutport Street. In the "Mayor's answer," it is set forth that "Barnestaple is an anciente Porte, and Bonteporte "Parcell of the Suburbes belonging to the said Towne Tyme out "of Mynde."

sold to Henry Rolle, (ancestor of the present Lord Rolle) for the sum of ***Two Thousand Four Hundred Pounds.*** The proceeds of this comparatively small portion of the Priory property, may give us some idea of the value of its other endowments.

How long the Priory might have been preserved as a residence subsequent to the dissolution of the establishment, cannot now be ascertained; but that the building was not suffered immediately to go to decay, is evident; since fifty-five years after the grant to the Howard family, the house was considered a fit habitation for the Sheriff of Devonshire*. This is, I believe, the latest mention made of it. It is not improbable that Lord Howard might have taken up his abode here on becoming possessed of the property; the situation must have been a very inviting one, commanding a fine prospect of the river, as well as a considerable extent of country, and, what would certainly in his Lordship's estimation, add much to the interest of the scenery, he might almost exclaim with Cowper's Selkirk,—"I'm monarch of all I survey†."

The Priory building, and most of the detached offices, have been long since razed to their foundations; only small portions of walls now remain, which probably formed part of some of the numerous out-houses mentioned in the grant.

* See Chron. Record, 1590.

† Besides the long list of Manors and Estates enumerated, all the left hand side of Pilton Street belonged to Barnstaple Priory. (The greater part of the right side belonged to Cleeve Abbey.)

Amongst the memorandums left by a deceased individual*, I find the following relating to a house built in 1798, on the verge of the Priory site, facing Boutport Street; it is noticed here purposely, as it respects the coins, that the error may be corrected. "In building the same they had occasion to dig below "the surface of the earth, (no unusual occurrence this!) "where they found old Saxon coins, by *pecks*, to a "very great value; and also divers bones, which "appeared to have lain in beds of lime." The writer adds,—"enquire about this, as I am very hard in "believing it." The gentleman who built the house in question, assures me that two or three coins only were found. I have not been able to meet with more than one of these, which is a shilling of the second year of the reign of Elizabeth.

* The late THOMAS BROOKE KEATE, of Barnstaple, law-writer, whose name deserves honourable mention, he having been the first to enter on the *task* of compiling a History of his native town. If he was not gifted with all the judgment requisite for such an undertaking, he only wanted that which but comparatively few possess, (and what the writer is free to confess *his own deficiency in.*) With peculiar facilities for procuring materials, Mr. Keate united a persevering industry in the pursuit, and thus brought together a quantity of interesting matter relative to Barnstaple; but having been unfortunately in the habit of lending detached portions of his Manuscript, which no one took the trouble to seek for after his decease, much, and it is to be feared the most valuable part of what he had collected, is irrecoverably lost; the substance of what has been preserved, is, through the kindness of the individuals into whose hands it fell, incorporated with this work. Thomas Brooke Keate died October 20th, 1816, aged twenty-one years.

A more interesting discovery, connected with the Priory, has since been made, which is thus described in the Gentleman's Magazine, for January, 1826:—

" In May, 1819, some workmen employed in " forming a tan-yard on the site of the Priory, called St. " Magdalen, in Barnstaple, laid open the foundations " of many extensive walls, thick, and formed of very " solid masonry, the mortar cementing the stones " being harder than even the stones themselves. " They were covered by immense heaps of rubbish, " stones, and slates, apparently thrown over them at " the demolition of the buildings. Amongst the " rubbish were fragments of columns, ribs of groins, " paving tiles, glazed with a flower-de-luce on them, " and some stones with crosses. Two stones were " very perfect, and retained in excellent preservation " the arms of which I send you an exact copy.

" The whole of these foundations and rubbish had " been covered for ages by a fine green sward, and " now being only partly uncovered, and the rubbish " again thrown back, as suited the convenience of the " workmen; it was not possible to form a correct idea " either of the extent or form of these buildings.

" Two skeletons were found, one was very perfect, " and a man's. Near this skeleton* lay a small bell, " such as is tinkled in the Catholic churches during " the celebration of mass; it was of bell-metal, and

* Most probably the remains of the Ostiarius or Doorkeeper, in the form of whose ordination the Bishop says, " Ostiarium oportet ' perculere cymbalum et *campanam*."

" not in the slightest degree corroded; the clapper, " being of iron, was destroyed by rust. Several coins " were found, and some, as I have heard, of silver; but " of the latter I could not obtain a sight.

" A souterrain was laid open, but whether it was " an extended passage, or merely the cloaca, it suited " neither the purse nor inclination of the tanner " to ascertain. There is a tradition that there once " existed a subterranean communication under the " river Yeo, from this place to a religious establishment " at Bull Hill, near Pilton church, where the Pope's " indulgences were sold. I believe, however, there " are few places where similar traditions do not exist.

" There is also a tradition that a stone coffin had " been found here, containing the body of a man in " complete armour."

The letter from which the above is extracted, was accompanied by an engraving, which, by the liberality of the editor of the Gentleman's Magazine, who has kindly granted me the use of the block, I am enabled to copy into this work.

The arms represented in the sketch, are affixed to the back wall of a house, erected in 1822, on the site of the Priory, now the property and residence of Thomas Palmer Acland, Esquire.

From the large quantities of human bones which have been at different times dug up in the Rack Field, (as the Priory site is now called, from the circumstance of its having been long used for the purpose of drying woollen cloths) it would appear to have been made the receptacle of a much greater number of bodies than it is

likely were interred there during the period it remained a religious establishment.

Similar discoveries have been made in other fields near the town; the most probable conjecture with respect to them all is, that they were converted into burying places when the plague raged here A. D. 1646*.

All the houses on the East side of Boutport Street, from Pilton Bridge to Vicarage Lane, as well as the Vicarage House, and the Cottages beyond it, are evidently built on the Priory ground. These have become the property of various individuals. The Rack Field, which still retains the name of Maudlyn (a corruption of Magdalene), is vested jointly in the Reverend John Boyce, Rector of Sherwill, and Miss Dene, of Barnstaple; in proportion to its extent, it is a very valuable property.

It is erroneously stated in Lyson's Mag. Brit. to belong to R. N. Incledon, Esquire. This gentleman was the proprietor of the site of *Pilton* Priory, which he has lately sold, and is possessed of the Great Tithes of Barnstaple, formerly annexed to the Priory; from one of these circumstances, the mistake made by Messrs. Lysons' may have arisen.

A grant was made by Sir James de Audley, in 1348, of "an area in Barnstaple, for poor brethren hermits "of the order of St. Augustine." The grant was confirmed by Bishop Grandison, June the 9th in that year, and Robert Rowe gave, shortly after, five acres of "land, in Barnstaple, to the said hermits," as appears

* See Chron. Record.

from the *Inquisitio ad quod damnum, anno*, 27th of Edward the Third.

A house of Friars Austin here, founded by one Robert Bacon, is mentioned in some collections of Mr. Stewart, of pat. 27 Edward the Third*. No further record has been left of these institutions.—Probably the intentions of the Donors were never fully carried into effect.

I cannot allow myself to close this account of the Priory, without acknowledging my obligations to the Reverend George Oliver, a gentleman, of whom it is difficult to say which best deserves our admiration,—his extensive learning, or the liberal and unassuming manner in which he dispenses from his stores of knowledge for the benefit of others.

Not only am I indebted to Mr. Oliver for the List of Priors, which is copied from his "Historic Collections relating to the Monastries in Devon," but for the unrestricted use of notes, taken by him since the publication of that work; and also for valuable information of a more general kind.

* Tanner's Not. Monast.—In the same work, and just preceding the paragraph now quoted, occurs the following:—"A Hospital of "the Holy Trinity here (in Barum) is mentioned pat. 9, Henry the "Fourth, p. 1, m. 3, vol. iv.;" but on referring to the Calen. Rot. Patentium, I find the reference to be as follows:—"De Hospitale "seu elemosinario fraternitatis S. Trinitatis in Bristoll per Johannem "de Barnstaple perampl." A strange mistake in such a work.

THE MANOR OF HOG'S FEE,

Was anciently in the suburbs, but is now situate nearly in the heart of the town of Barnstaple. Although once thought worthy of being presented by the hands of Royalty, the property now only produces the trifling fixed income of £1 14*s*. 6½*d*. in chief rents. The first mention made of it is as follows:—Temp. Edward the Third.—"Robert Beauple Chevaler has in the said "Borough (of Barnstaple) a certain Fee, called Hog's "Fee, of which are held twenty-six tenements; he "holds his Court once in three weeks*."

The Calen. Inquis. post mortem contains the following reference to this Manor:—"9 Ric. 2. Nigellus Loringe "Chevaler et Margaretta Uxor ejus Barnestaple 10*s*. "reddit' vocat Hogesfee." It came into the hands of the crown, in the second year of the reign of Queen Mary, by virtue of the attainder of Henry Duke of Suffolk, and so remained until the eighth of James the First, in which year the Manor was granted, by letters patent, to George Whitemore, and Thomas Whitemore, Esquires; from whom it passed, through Richard and William Bennett, to John Pincombe, of Southmolton, gentleman. Richard Pincombe, son and heir of the last named, left it to his three sisters, Mary, Elizabeth, and Gertrude. Mary married John Tuckfield, Esq. whose daughter and heiress devised her

* This Court was kept up during the life-time of Mr. Thomas Keate, who officiated as Steward or Bailiff of the Manor; but has since been discontinued.

portion of the property to John Crew, Esquire, who sold it to the Mayor and Corporation of Barnstaple. Elizabeth Pincombe, dying without issue, her share of the Manor fell to Gertrude, who devised the two-thirds to Roger Tuckfield and John Creyk; they made sale to ——— Selter, and others, by whom it was sold to the Mayor and Corporation of Barum, who thus became possessed of the undivided property.

The original extent of this estate cannot now be correctly ascertained; a bond-stone, projecting from the front of a house on the East side of Boutport (about half way betwixt Back Lane and Silver Street), and the White Horse Inn, in the same street, are *supposed* to mark its extent N. and S. The houses, &c. from which the rental is derived, not being in a continuous line, but scattered over different parts of the town, furnish no clue by which to fix the bounds of the Manor.

THE OLD TOWN.

In its primary sense this term is, of course, only applicable to the ancient Burgh; but it may also with propriety be applied, as now intended, to the town and suburbs, as embracing in one community, although under different jurisdictions, the three separate interests (see page 9,) into which Barnstaple was anciently divided.

It is a pleasing feature in the History of Barnstaple, that (as far as my information extends) the town is mentioned by all old writers in terms of commendation.

As we must principally depend on the testimony of Historians, in order to form a judgment of the ancient state of the town, I subjoin extracts from the works of such as I have been enabled to discover have written respecting it.

" The Towne of Berdenestaple hath be waullid and " the Waulle was in Compace by estimation half a " Myle. It is now almost olene faullen. The " names of 4 Gates, by Est, West, North, and South, " yet remain, and manifest tokens of them. The " suburbes be now more than the Towne. The " Houses be of Stone as al Houses in good Townes " thereaboute be. There be manifest Ruines of a great " Castelle at the North West Side of the Towne. Sum " say that one of the Tracys made the right great and " sumeptus Bridge of Stone, having 16 high arches, " at Berstaple."—*Leland's Itinerary*, 1542.

" Barnstaple, a Borough right ancient, bordereth " here upon the East Bank of Taw, it is the chief " Town of Merchandise next the River's mouth. It " was once walled, the foundation of whose Walls, " could they be traced out, doubtless the Town would " appear nothing so large; which if now walled, so " fair built aud populous withal, would prove little " inferior to some Cities, for it hath Liberties and " Privileges as in a City, and is pleasantly and sweetly " situate amidst Hills, in form of a semi-circle, upon " the River, as it were a Diameter, whose streets in " whatsoever weather, are clean and fairly paved. It " hath a Friday's Market, for frequency of People, " and Choice of all Commodities, the cheapest in this

" Tract. The Inhabitants profess merchandise, and " through Traffic have much enriched themselves."—*Risdon's Survey of Devon.*

" Reputed this is a very ancient Towne, and for " elegant Buildings and frequencie of People held " chiefe in all this Coast. On the South Side it hath " a stately Bridge. The Inhabitants, for the most " Part, are Merchants who in France and Spaine trade " and traffique much."—*Camden's Britain,* edition 1687*.

" No place was thought so convenient for his " (The Prince of Wales's) Residence, as Barnstaple, a " pleasant Town in the North of Devon, well fortified, " with a good Garrison in it.—*Lord Clarendon's History of the Rebellion.*

" Barnstaple was once walled round, which if it had " continued, it would have been little inferior to some " Cities for fair Buildings, numerous Inhabitants, and " great Liberties and Privileges. It is fairly paved and " the Streets are clean in all Weathers."—*Britannia et Hibernia antiqua et nova,* 1714.

" The pleasant Town—the clean and neat Town of " Barnstaple "—*Prince's Worthies of Devon.*

As might be expected of a wall which three centuries ago was "almost clene faullen," there are now no visible remains of the ancient boundary of the town†.

* This work, which was compiled from an actual Survey, made during the reign of Elizabeth, was first published, in Latin, A. D. 1594.

† Part of the side wall of a house in Boutport Street, (about midway between Paternoster Row and Joy Street) is thought by

Doctor Johnson somewhere remarks, that "Walls "supply materials for building, much more readily "than Quarries," and when an increased population required additional dwellings, our ancestors acted but wisely, if, as doubtless was the case, they made the site and materials of a decaying fortification subservient to their convenience, by appropriating both to the erection of houses.

Although "manifest tokens yet remain" of but one of the four gates* mentioned by Leland, there is sufficient evidence to warrant the conclusion that the situation of the other three, as well as the course of the town wall, varied but little from the line described below.

From the ancient northern entrance to the town, the substantial masonry of which is still apparently much in its original state, the wall appears to have passed on in the rear of the present houses on the west side of Boutport Street†, to EAST GATE‡, thence to SOUTH

some persons to be a remnant of the Town Wall. The building referred to, certainly stands very near, if not upon the line of the old wall, and this is all that can be said in favor of the supposition.

* It is somewhat extraordinary, that in no one of the many ancient records, &c. that have come to my hands, is there any particular mention made of either of the *Gates* of the town.

† Two houses are described in 1594, as being "bounded by the "Town Wall on the West, and Boutport Street on the East."—See *Charities*, "Appley's Gift."

‡ The situation of this Gate has been fixed (by conjecture) near the spot referred to in the note in the last page; to admit this would involve the manifest absurdity of supposing an entrance without a street, and, at a few yards distance, a street without an entrance; I have therefore considered it as having stood, as is certainly most probable, at the top of Joy Street.

GATE, situate at the bottom of High Street*, and (most probably through Maiden Street) along the Beach (now the Quay) to WEST GATE, at the bottom of Cross Street, from whence it ran on to the Castle, and again joined NORTH GATE. This line describes a circumference of more than four-fifths of a mile†, by actual admeasurement, being nearly double the distance Leland gives "by estimation."

We sit down now-a-day, and discourse coolly enough about walls and castles; it would be well were we sometimes to look back and endeavour to bring home the period when our now peaceable town was a fortress, and its inhabitants clad in mail; when "the confused "noise of warriors" was an accustomed sound, and "garments rolled in blood" a familiar sight; when the weak became the prey of the strong, and the strong in his turn was spoiled by "a stronger "than he."

The earliest mention that I find made (excepting what is said in Domesday) of the number or state of

* The house at the corner of High Street and Boutport, formerly "The Black-a-moor's Head" Inn, is described in ancient deeds as being "near the South Gate;" and in an old Corporation Rental, "at South Gate." Wyot (Chron. Reg. 1595) speaks of Southgate Street. In all probability, High Street was originally limited to the centre division of the present street; the two extremities being Northgate Street, and Southgate Street.

† Measured thus:—North Gate to East Gate, 896 feet; East Gate to South Gate, 952 feet; South Gate to West Gate, 660 feet; West Gate to the Castle, 1254 feet; the Castle to North Gate, 528 feet;—total, 4290 feet, or $\frac{4}{5}$ $\frac{1}{80}$ of a mile.

the houses in the town, occurs in the reign of Henry the Eighth, and is as follows:—

"Whereas there hath been in times past many "beautiful houses within the walls and liberties of York, "Lincoln, Canterbury, Coventry, Bath, Chichester, "Salisbury, Winchester, Bristol, Scarborough, Lynn, "Hereford, Colchester, Rochester, Portsmouth, Poole, "Feversham, Worcester, Stafford, Exeter, Ipswich, "Buckingham, Pontefract, Grantham, Southampton, "Great Yarmouth, Oxenford, Guildford, Estretfore, "(quære, if Stafford?) Great Wicomb, Kingston upon "Hull, Newcastle upon Tyne, Beverley, Bedford, "Leicester, Berwick, Shafton, Sherborn, Bridport, "Dorchester, Weymouth, BARNSTABLE, Plymouth, "Plympton, Tavistoke, Dartmouth, Lestwithiel, "Leskeard, Lanceston, Bodmin, Truro, Helston, "Taunton, Bridgwater, Somerton, Alchester, Maldon, "Warwick, which houses now are fallen down, decayed, "and at this time remain unre-edified, as desolate, and "vacant grounds; many of them nigh adjoining to "the high streets, replenished with much uncleanness "and filth, with pits, cellars, and vaults, lying open "and uncovered, to the great peril of the King's "subjects; and other houses are in danger of falling. "Now if the owners of the waste grounds (on which "houses have stood within twenty-five years back), "and of the decaying houses, do not in three years "rebuild them, then the Lord of whom the ground is "held, may re-enter and seize the same as in a like law, "anno, 1535.—*Stat.* 32, *Henry Eighth, cap.* 18, 19.

A modern writer*, who appears to have possessed competent means of forming a correct judgment on the subject, considers that the complaint here made, as it respects the *decay* of houses, was frivolous, and had its origin in "the particular humour of Parliament" at this period, since many of the cities and towns mentioned were known to be then in a very thriving condition. Whatever might have been amiss, he considers, was "more owing to carelessness than actual decay," and that the statement was much exaggerated. Be this, however, as it may, Barnstaple certainly appears in good company, and on the evidence of the Statute referred to, may be fairly considered to have ranked amongst the principal towns of the empire.

I find no reference to this act in any private memorandums, and am therefore unable to afford any information as to what effects might have been produced by it in Barnstaple.

In "*A plotte off that partte off the towne off "Barnestaple, neere the ryvere syde before the "kaye was buylded Anno D.* 1584†," the following streets, &c. appear, as described below:—

* Macpherson—Annals of Commerce.

† Since page 16 was printed off, I have been led to question the accuracy of the date here specified, as having reference to the *State of the Town at that period.* It would appear rather to be "A plotte" *executed* in 1584, shewing what the state of the lower part of the town *was* before the Quay was built. If we believe that there was no Quay erected at this time, we must also believe that the Corporation, in their Petition for the Charter, (see Chap. III.) granted to the town in 1556, practised a deception on the King

"*Castell hille and Tower.*"—The Hill appears without a tree or shrub, and surrounded by a ditch. The Tower consists of an embattled wall, with loop holes, in perfect repair. "*Castell greene*" is unenclosed, and nothing like a building appears on the premises, except the Tower already mentioned. "*Castell poyntte*" is represented as a green sward, running nearly out to low-water mark; the whole of the space from the Castle to "*Hollande Streett*" is also a green, enclosed by a low wall. A building, designated "*William Johnson's housse*," on "*The Stronde*," occupies the site of Captain Gribble's residence, in the Cattle Market; it is represented as standing on a green, with its front towards the water. No other house or erection of any kind is to be seen on the side of the street next the river, until we reach "*Litsound*," (Litchdon) except the desecrated Chantry of Saint Thomas, at the corner of the Bridge, and a small house (erected probably for the purpose of collecting money from passengers) on the opposite side. The Square, as we now term it, is a beach, with an open sewer running across it from the bottom of Silver Street. The houses on the East, West, and North sides appear however, much as at the present time. Those on the Eastern side have a low wall in front, for the purpose, as it would seem, of securing a dry passage at tide

and his Council, too scandalous to have been attempted, and too palpable to have passed undiscovered. Wyot speaks of a *new* Quay being built in 1600; and we find that the Fair was regularly kept on the *Quay* before the 34th year of the reign of Elizabeth.—*See Chron Record, 1590, and 1600.*

time. "*Litsound*" exhibits dwelling houses on the North side of the street, reaching to the *full extent* of Litchdon Terrace*; the buildings on the opposite side are also complete as far as they reach at present. Part of "*Barbicane Lane*" is shewn, as is also the road passing through "*Portte marish,*" (Port-marsh) and "*Gooze Leaze,*" (now Gooseleigh-marsh) on to "*Cowebrydge.*" The houses in "*Hollande Streett,* "*Crosse Streett,*" Theatre Lane, (not named) and "*Mayden Streett,*" and also on the North side of the Cattle Market and Quay, on to the Square, occupy, with one exception, the same positions as they now do. The exception regards the site of the Bell Inn, and the Coal Cellars adjoining, which is laid down as a vacant space, having apparently a row of shambles in front. "*The Sande Rudge*" lies close beneath the town, instead of on the Tawstock side, as at present; "*The* "*Ryuer Towe*" running, at low water, only through the last five arches of "*The Longe Brydge.*" The Bridge appears with sixteen arches, as at present.

Such other particulars as I have collected respecting the state of the town and its customs, in "days of yore," will best appear in the Chronological Record, where they will be found under their respective dates.

* Probably the houses which appear to have stood at this period on Litchdon Green (now Litchdon Terrace), as well as on the ground occupied by the two adjoining houses (which were built not many years since), were among the number of those "demolished" during the rebellion.—*See Civil Wars.*

CHAPELS AND CHANTRIES*.

Besides a Convent and parish Church, Barnstaple appears to have abounded in religious establishments of a minor order. The following are recorded :—

The Chapel of St. Sabinus has been already noticed, as having formed part of Joel's grant at the foundation of the Priory.

Leland says, "There hath beene 4 Chapelles yn the "Towne, of the which one was at the Est End of the "Bridge dedicate to Thomas Becket now profaned; "the other 3 yet stande, one of Alhalowes at the "North Gate; Another of St. Nicholas at the West "Gate, as I remember. One Holman, Vicar of the "Paroche Chirch in Berstaple made a fair Chapelle "and founded a Chauntrie in it in the Paroche Chirch "Yard in Berstaple."

Brown Willis† mentions three Chantries and a free Chapel, with the pensions paid to the Incumbents of each, in 1553, namely :—

	£	s.	d.
John Hardin Incumbent of St. Ann's Chapel	5	0	0
Robt. Thorne Incumbent of St. George's Chantry	6	0	0
John Trench of Rowlin's Chantry	1	0	0
Peter Scynthyl Incumbent of the Free Chapel there, (and a like sum for the same at Fremington)	2	7	0

* Chantry, Chauntry,—A sepulchral Chapel. Such foundations were endowed with revenues arising from landed or other property for the support of priests to chant masses for the souls of the donors and others.—*Britton's Architec. Antiquities.*

† History of Mitred Abbeys, vol. ii. p. 66.

Of the eight* buildings here mentioned, the situations of four only can be correctly ascertained; but two of these remain, and they were desecrated centuries ago.

THE CHAPEL OF ST. SABINUS,

Was probably annexed to the Church, and enclosed with it when that edifice was rebuilt. This is at once a reasonable supposition, and the best way in which we can account for the omission of the Chapel in the subsequent grant of the Priory, &c. to Lord Howard.

THOMAS-A-BECKET'S CHAPEL,

Was situate at the end of the Bridge, on the precise spot now occupied by the residence of E. R. Roberts, Esq. Leland tells us it was "profaned" in his day. A building (whether the original one or not is uncertain) appears on its site in the old map before referred to (see page 42.) This Chapel was dedicated to Thomas-a-Becket, the canonized Archbishop of Canterbury, and has obtained some celebrity from being said to have been built by Sir William de Tracy, one of the Prelate's assassins, in expiation of his crime. "The Chauntry "of St. Thomas," Mr. Oliver informs us, "is frequently "mentioned in the Bishop's Registers," but they contain nothing that will warrant a belief that the building was in existence earlier than the reign of Edward the Third.

Historians are much at variance both as to the conduct of de Tracy subsequent to the murder, as

* Nine are enumerated, but the Chapel in the Church Yard and *St. Ann's*, are the same.

well as to the time and place of his death. Giraldus Cambrensis, a cotemporary, says, that immediately after the murder, Sir William de Tracy hastened to present himself to Bartholomew, Bishop of Exeter, " in cujus Diocesi terras amplas habebat," *in whose Diocese he had large possessions*, to whom he confessed his crime. Some writers state that all the murderers retired to Knaresborough, in Yorkshire, where they remained some time, and then fled to Rome, and were admitted to penance by the Pope, Alexander the Third ; others again, that some fled for their lives into the North, and some into the West.

One account says that de Tracy died at Cozenza, in Italy, within three years after the death of the Archbishop ; another, that he and his companions in guilt ended their days in Jerusalem, and were " buried " without the church door belonging to the Templars ;" whilst Camden affirms that " Sir William de Traceye, " one of the murtherers of Thomas Becket, A. B. of " Canterbury, retired twenty-three years subsequent " to the occurrence to Mort*, or Morthoe," a village

* In the Church at this place is a handsome monument, said to have been made the depository of the remains of de Tracy, Becket's murderer, but more generally believed to be that of a clergyman named William Tracy, who died at Morte in 1322, and who, as the title of Sir, or " Syre," was commonly applied to the clergy at that period, had it inscribed on his tomb as a customary thing. The following description of this relic of antiquity is copied from the *North Devon Magazine*, for April, 1824 :—

" It is in length about eight feet, nearly four feet broad, and " rises about two feet from the floor of the transept ; the figure of " it is therefore a long square, or parallelogram, lying across

lying on the shore of the Bristol channel, about ten miles West from Barnstaple. There appears certainly but little, if any reason, to conclude that Sir William de Tracy built "The Chantry of St. Thomas," yet it is by no means improbable that the Chapel was founded by some branch of the family*, at a subsequent period.

"lengthways from West to East; but rather broader at one end "than the other; the West end being the broadest; the northern "side of it is occupied by some armorial bearings consisting of "three escutcheons:—one containing three *lions passant gardant;* "—a second three *bends;*—and the third a *saltire*—and several "plain little gothic arches in relief, enclosing, under each arch, the "remains of a sculptured figure, seemingly intended to represent "some female Saint. On the opposite, or south side, are several "small gothic arches, also in bold relief, and in various patterns of "gothic ornament. At the head, or western end of the tomb, is a "defaced sculpture of Christ on the cross, between two other figures. "The eastern end, or foot of the monument, is now plain; perhaps "it once had a sculpture which has been entirely defaced. On the "top of all is a larger oblong slab of grey stone, or marble, bordered "on the western and southern sides by an inscription, supposed to "be in Lombardic letters. Many of these are totally obliterated; "but from the remainder the reader may pretty plainly trace "something about a *de Tracy:* antiquarians read it

"'SYRE WM. DE TRACY,
"'MAY I FIND MERCY!'

"The rest of the slab is covered with an IN-sculptured outline, "(now rather indistinct) of the figure of a man robed, and bearing "something in his hand, said to be a chalice; perhaps an hour glass "may be as good a supposition."

* Two of the de Tracys were Lords of Barnstaple.—(See descent of Manor.)

His relatives would be naturally desirous to do something that might atone for the foul deed by which the name of de Tracy had been stained; and in no way could they better do this, in conformity to the reigning superstition of the day, than by the endowment of a religious edifice; but especially of one consecrated to so popular a saint and martyr as Thomas-a-Becket *.

ALL-HALLOWS CHAPEL.

The Chapel of All-Hallows, or All-Saints, stood immediately over the North Gate. Its place is now occupied by a room built about sixty years since, and appropriated as a school-room for the boys belonging to the *Charity School.*—(See Charities.) I have met with no particulars respecting the ancient building, nor can I state how or when it came into the hands of the Corporation, whose property it appears to have been previous to the erection of the school-room.

ST. MARY AND ST. NICHOLAS CHAPEL.

The earliest mention I have found made of this Chapel, occurs in the ninth year of Henry the Sixth, (1430) when "Henry Piers and Walter Holmore" are

* One hundred thousand pilgrims have been registered at a time in Canterbury, and £954 6*s*. 3*d*. was in one year offered at the Archbishop's shrine, whilst at the Virgin Mary's only £4 1*s* 8*d*., and at "God's Altar" *nothing* was deposited. Louis the Seventh of France made a pilgrimage to the tomb, and "bestowed on the "shrine a jewel, which was esteemed the richest in christendom."

noticed as "wardens of St. Mary and St. Nicholas "Chapple near the Strande," which shews it to have been then used as a place of worship. The building was purchased from the Crown in December 1550, by the Mayor and Corporation, subject to the payment of 3*s.* 5*d.* per annum. It appears to have been almost immediately appropriated to its present use*, that of a warehouse for goods imported, which, from the owners not being residents, or from any other cause, may require to be placed under the custody of the "Quay "Master" or wharfinger.

The building is of rough stone; but from the solidity of its structure, although perhaps the most ancient, it bids fair to vie in duration with every modern erection in the town.

ST. ANN'S CHAPEL.

An account somewhat different from that furnished by Leland (See page 44) is given of this Chapel, but without any authority being quoted, in the periodical work already referred to:—

"The Chapel of our lady, in the church-yard of "Barnstaple, in which were two charities (a misprint "for Chauntries); one founded by Thomas Holman, "Vicar of Barnstaple, valued at seven pounds a "year; and the other called ***St. James's Charity*** "(Chauntry), founded by Robert Redmyn, and valued

* Wyot speaks of it in 1590 under its present designation—the *Quay Hall.—(See Chron. Record.)*

" at £10 18*s.* 1*d.* *per annum;* of which £5 were " allowed to a priest, and the remainder appropriated " to repairs, and the relief of the poor."

The designation of the Chapel as that " of our lady," or St. Mary, is certainly an error*; how far the rest of the account may be correct, I cannot determine.

The earliest memorandum I have met with relative to this property, occurs in the third year of the reign of Edward the Sixth (1549), May 3rd, in which year " Nicholas and Roger Prideaux granted Chauntry " and Lands of St. Ann's Chapel to Henry Cade and " others." The 20th of January, in the following year, " St. Ann's Chauntry and Chapel " was sold to the Mayor and Corporation of Barnstaple, who, with becoming liberality, granted the use of it for a place of worship to a number of French protestants, who, having fortunately escaped with their lives from the sanguinary persecution that followed the revocation of the edict of Nantz, in 1685, came to this town†, and took up their

* That the Quay Hall was ST. MARY and *St. Nicholas' Chapel,* which we have already seen was " near the Strande," there can be no doubt; it came into the hands of the Corporation under that title, about the same time that we find them purchasing " ST. ANN'S " *Chantry and Chapel.*"

† A friend has furnished me with the following narrative, communicated by an aged gentleman, still living in London:— " His ancestors were amongst those who left Rochelle in a small " crowded vessel, in the height of the protestant persecution; they " were tossed about in wretched blowing weather for a long time; " at length they found themselves in the Bristol Channel. They

abode here. Divine service continued to be performed in the French language, as late as the middle of the past century; the last officiating minister was a Dr.

" sailed over the bar, up the river*, and landed on the Quay, at " Barnstaple, on a Sunday morning, during Divine service. In their " miserable destitution they ranged themselves in the Market " House; the inhabitants, when they came out of Church, flocked " to see the poor refugees; an old gentleman" (would his name had been recorded!) " took two of them home with him to dinner, and " recommended his fellow townsmen to follow his example; thus, " in a few minutes, they were all distributed throughout the town. " Many of them in a little time received remittances from their " correspondents in London, and left the place;" among whom were the ancestors of the individual from whom this account was derived; they were named Le Pine. The following are the names of some of the persons who became residents here, many of whose descendants are still living in the town and neighbourhood, some in affluence, and some in receipt of a stipend paid them by our Government, but which, it is understood, is to cease on the demise of the persons now enjoying it:—

MONS. DE RUE	MONS. SERVANTE
MONS. DE LA TOUR	MONS. L'OISEAU
MONS. DU BARRY	MONS. ROCHE.
MONS. MOUNIER	

The inhabitants were no losers by the generous sympathy they exercised towards the refugees, some of whom introduced an improved mode of dying cloth, and so much did Barnstaple excel in the art, " that the merchants of Exeter, for a long series of years, " constantly sent their goods there to be dyed."

* It may appear strange that these individuals should, in their destitute situation, have passed by Appledore, and so near to Bideford, and yet have landed at Barnstaple. There is every probability, that as this town had long been engaged in commerce with France, either the vessel in which the unfortunate emigrants embarked, had been accustomed to trade to this port,

Duncan; he died about the year 1760. The building is now used as a "*Grammar School,*" (see Charities, under this head) and is denominated *The High School.* Philip Wyot (Chron. Rec. 1608,) says, "The Town "of Barnestaple holdeth the Chantry of St. Ann of the "Crown by Soccage, it was bought of Edw^{d} 6, and "some other Lands by that Tenure, for wh^{ch} by "Composition the Town paid xx^{s}." It does not, however, appear that any such payment is now made, except that already noticed.—(See page 49.)

According to tradition, there was once a Chapel in the narrow passage leading from the Quay, under the Custom House, to the back premises of several houses in High Street. There is also said to have been one behind the residence of Charles Blackmore, Esq. in Cross Street (formerly the *Globe Inn*). That both these accounts have the same local reference, is quite evident, from the relative situations of the passage and house alluded to; two lines drawn from which, at right angles, would cross each other at the distance of eighty or a hundred feet. There are, however, no apparent remains of any religious edifice either on this spot, or elsewhere in the town, except those already pointed out.

or that some of the individuals had commercial connexions here. We may reasonably suppose that from either of these causes they would be induced to shape their course for Barnstaple, and consequently that their arrival here was not, as would appear from the above recital, the effect of chance. Wyot speaks of "Shipping" to and from *Rochelle.—Chron. Rec.* 1593.

APPENDIX TO CHAPTER I.

[A.]

Containing Extracts relating to Barnstaple (taken from the copies published by the Commissioners of Public Records), from the following national documents:—

DOMESDAY BOOK.—Transcripts from this interesting work are given literally*, and accompanied by a full Latin copy, with an English translation. In order to ensure their correctness, the two latter have been obtained from the Record Office, in the Tower.

EXON' DOMESDAY.—*Literal Copy.*—(From this work, which as a county survey, is unique, the account of Devonshire in the Conqueror's Domesday, was compiled. The original is still preserved in the Cathedral Library, Exeter.)

CALENDARIUM INQUISITIO POST MORTEM.—*Literal Copy.*

ROTULI HUNDREDORUM, Vol. 1 . . . . . „ „

CALENDARIUM ROTOLORUM PATENTIUM . „ „

JONES's INDEX TO THE RECORDS, Vol. 1 and 2 „ „

It will be seen that many of the quotations from these volumes refer to the Manor, Castle, &c. It was not until long since this work had been in progress, that I was aware of the existence of these valuable books of reference; but having in the course of an anxious, and I may add, laborious, search after all that could be gathered, either from

* As nearly so as was practicable in ordinary type; the abbreviatory characters only are wanting. The same observation is also applicable to *Exon Domesday*, and in a few instances to the other works.

men or books, which might furnish a Memorial of Barnstaple, met with the works, I made the extracts, although more for my own gratification than with a view to their publication; since consulting such a number of Records*, and giving extracts from them, was of course out of the question, unless the "Memorials" had been to make their appearance in the shape of "a goodly quarto," at least. As however, though merely indices, they possess considerable interest, I conceive it would be doing wrong to suppress them.

Domesday Book.

TERRA REGIS—LAND OF THE KING.

"Rex habet burgu Barnestaple—Rex. E. habuit. in dnio. "Ibi st intra burgu. xl. burgses. ꝯ ix st ext burg. Int oms "regi. xl. sol ad pensu ꝯ. epo cstantiensi xx solid ad "numerum. Ibi st xxiii dom uastatæ postq rex uenit in "Angliam."

Rex habet burgum Barnestaple. Rex Edwardus habuit in dominico. Ibi sunt intra burgum xl burgenses, et ix sunt extra burgum. Inter omnes reddunt regi xl solidos ad pensum, et episcopo Constantiensi xx solidos ad numerum. Ibi sunt xxiii domus vastatæ postquam rex venit in Angliam.

The King has the borough of Barnstaple. King Edward had it in demesne. There are within the borough forty burgesses, and there are nine without the borough. Altogether they render to the King forty shillings in weight, and to the bishop of Constance twenty shillings in number. There are twenty-three houses destroyed since the King came into England.

* I presume it is generally understood that copies of such documents are only to be procured from the Tower, and that, necessarily, at a *very considerable expense.*

TERRA EPI CONSTANTIENSIS—LAND OF THE BISHOP OF CONSTANCE.

" Ipse eps bt in Barnestaple x burgses redd xlv den ⁊
" vii dom uastatas ⁊ dimid v træ ⁊ molin redd xx solid
" ⁊ xx solid de csuetud burgensiu regis."

Ipse episcopus habet in Barnestaple x burgenses, reddentes xlv denarios, et vii domos vastatas, et dimidium virgatæ terræ. Et molendinum reddit xx solides, et xx solidos de consuetudine burgensium Regis.

The same bishop has in Barnestaple ten burgesses, rendering forty-five pence, and seven houses destroyed, and half a virgate of land. And the mill renders twenty shillings, and twenty shillings of custom of the King's burgesses.

" Brai teneb Aluuard T.R.E. ⁊ geldb p dim v træ . Tra
" e . iiii. car . In dnio . e . i . car ⁊ viii . uilli cu . i . car .
" Ibi . v . ac pti . ⁊ xxx . ac pasturæ . ⁊ tntd siluæ . In
" Barnestaple un ortus redd . iiii . denar . Olim . x . sol .
" modo ual . xx . solid ."

Brai tenebatur Aluuard tempore Regis Edwardi, et geldebatur pro dimidio virgatæ terræ. Terra est iiii carucatæ. In dominio est i carucata, et viii villani cum i caruca. Ibi v acræ prati et xxx acræ pasturæ et tantundem silvæ. In Barnestaple unus ortus reddit iv denarios. Olim x solidos . Modo valet xx solidos.

Brai was holden by Aluuard in the time of King Edward, and was taxed for half a virgate of land. The land is four carucates. In demesne there is one carucate, and eight villeins with one plough. There are five acres of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture, and as much wood. In Barnestaple one garden renders four pence. In time past ten shillings. Now it is worth twenty shillings.

TERRA BALDVINI VICECOMTIS—LAND OF BALDWIN THE SHERIFF.

" Ide Balduin ht in Barnestaple vii . burgses . ⁊ . vi . dom
" uastatas . h reddt p annu . vii . solid ⁊ vi denar."

Idem Balduinus habet in Barnestaple vii burgenses et vi domos vastatas. Hii reddunt per annum vii solidos et vi denarios.

The same Baldwin has in Barnestaple seven burgesses and six houses destroyed. These render by the year seven shillings and six pence.

" Robt. ten. de Balduin in Barnestaple ii. dom. reddt ii.
" solid."

Robertus tenet de Balduino in Barnestaple ii domos, reddunt ii solidos.

Robert holds of Baldwin in Barnestaple two houses, and they render two shillings.

TERRA ROBERTI DE ALBEMARLE—LAND OF ROBERT DE ALBEMARLE.

" Ipse Robt . ht in BARNESTAPLE ii dom uastatas . redd.
" iiii. denar."

Ipse Robertus habet in BARNESTAPLE duas domos vastatas reddentes iiii denarios.

The same Robert has in BARNESTAPLE two houses destroyed rendering four pence.

EXON' DOMESDAY.

TERRA BALDVINI VICECOMITIS INDEVENESIRA.

" *V* Balduin ht. i. mansione que uocat Aiscireuuilla. q
" tenuit brismar ea die qua rex. E. f u ⁊. m. ⁊ reddidit
" Gildu p. i. hida. hanc posst arare. xii. carr. hanc ten &
" Rotbt de bello monte de Vicecomite. Inde ht. R. i. uirga
" ⁊ ii. carr in dnio. ⁊ uillani hnt iii. uirgas ⁊ iiii. carr ⁊ dim.
" Ibi ht R. ix. uillanos. ⁊ vi. bord. ⁊ ii. seruos ⁊ ii. animalia.
" ⁊ viii. porcos. ⁊ c. oues. ⁊ xxviii. capras. ⁊ ii. mansuras i
" bardestaplensi burgo q reddunt p annu ii. sol. ⁊ ccc. agros
" nem culi. ⁊ iii. agros pti. ⁊ i."

DNICAT REGIS AD REGNV PERTINENS I DEVENESCIRA.

" *V* Rex ht. i. burgu q uocat Barnestapla que tenuit, E.
" rex ea die q ipse fuit. u. &. m. Ibi ht Rex xl. burgenses
" intra burgu. & foras. ix. & isti reddt. xl. sol ad pensu regi.

" & xx sol numero epo cstantiensi. & Ibi st. xxiii dom " uastate. pq. W. rex habuit anglia."

Under head of " Lideforda."—" Et si expeditio uadit " p tra l p mare reddt tantu de seruitio qntu Totenais " reddit l Barnestapla."

Under head of " Essecestre."—" Et qn Expeditio ibat p " tra aut p mare seruiebat ista ciuitas quantu. v. hide tre & " Toteneis. & lideforda. & Barnestabla seruiebant quantu & " pdicta ciutas."

TERRA EPI CONSTANTIENSIS IN DEVRESCIRA.

" Ibi ht Eps xl uillanos &. xxx. bord. &. vi. serous. i. " burgense In barnestapla q reddit xv. den. & xiii porcarios " q reddt. xxi porcu & xviii animalia. & c. l. oues. &. x. " agros nemoris. & xx. agros pti. &. c. agros pasque. hec " mans reddit. xxii. lib. & qu. Eps recepit. reddebat. xii " libras "

" *V* Eps ht. i. mans q uocat Brai. q tenuit Ailuuard ea " die q rex. E. f. u. &. m. & reddidit gildu p dim uirga. " hanc poss arare. iiii. carr. hanc ten & Drogo de epo. Inde " ht. D. i. ferlinu. &. i. carr in dnio. & Vill. i. &. i. ortu in " barnestapla q reddit. iiii denarios. & xxiii. oues. ferlinu. " &. i. carr. Ibi ht. D. viii vill ; &. iii. animalia. & iiii. porc ; " &. xx. caps. & xxx. agros nemoris. & v. agros prati. & xxx. " agros pas cue. hec ual &. xx. Sol & qu eps recepit nalebat. " v. sol."

" *V* Eps ht. x. burgenses In barnestapla ; q reddt. iii. sol. " & ix. denarios & vii. dom uastatas. & dim uirga tre &. i " moledinu q reddit xx. sol. p annu. &. xx sol csuetudine " burgensiu. regis."

TERRA BALDVINI VICECOMITIS INDEVENESIRA.

" *V* Balduin ht. vii burgenses In barnestapla. &. vi. dom
" uastatas. &. isti burgenses &. iste dom uastate reddt p
" annu. vii. sol & vi. den."

CALENDARIUM

INQUISITIONUM POST MORTEM

SIVE

ESCAETARUM.

VOL. I.

TEMPORIBUS REGUM HEN. III. ED. I. & ED. II.

Escaet' & Inquisitiones Anno 2° *Edw. I.*

Num°.

32.—" HENRICUS DE TRACEY, Barnstaple burgus,—Barnstaple
" baron,—Barnstaple baronia."

Anno 15° *Edw. I.*

9.—" MAURICIUS DE LA BARRE, Barnestaple terr' & tenement."

Anno 25° *Edw. I.*

11—" MATILDA DE LA BARRE, Le Barre Justa Barnestaple 4 acr'
" terr', &c."

Anno 31° *Edw. I.*

126.—" PRIOR ET CONVENT' DE BERDSTAPLE, Berdstaple de advoc'
" eccliæ sancti Petri approprianda—Taustoke ecclia."

Num^r.

Anno 33° *Edw. I.*

66.– " Will'us de campo Arnulph Berdstapel Maner'."

Escaet' de Anno 2° *Edw. II.*

75.—"Galfr'us de Campvyll Barnstaple burg' extent' ejusdem."

Escaet' de Anno 19° *Edw. II.*

FEODA PERTIN' BARON' DE BARNESTAPLE.

100.—" Will'us Filius Will'i Martyne* Barnestaple baron.
" —Heselle & Rews unum feod'.—Thelebrugge &
" Chattemere unum feod'.—Cloteworthy 4 Pars feod'.
" — Horton 4 Pars feod'. — Ralegh & Chaldecumbe
" unum feod'.—Walworthy—Kunemore—Trendeleshoo
" —Sevenashe—Pachehole—Northcote—Cambescote
" & Bridewike 5 feod'.—Crakeweye 3 Part' feod'—
" Cliftracy unum feod'.—Braunford spek dimid' feod'.
" — Northecote prioris dimid' feod.— Coriton unum
" feod'.— Ulneleghey 4 part' feod'.— Aylerdesford,
" 20 part' feod'.—Boy Parva dimid' feod'.—Peddehull
" dimid' feod — Winmersham unum feod' in com'
" Somerset.—Nether Exe unum feod'.— Chaggeford
" unum feod'— Milford. — Northrissell. — Thorne.—
" Roude.—Kymworth & Newlond 2 feod'.
" Barnestaple castrum } advoc'ones eccl'iar'."
" advoc' 2 Cantaria' ibm }

* Including the possessions here enumerated, which all belonged to the Barony of Barnstaple, two hundred and forty distinct properties, among which are many Manors, are mentioned as being held by this individual. The first entry (the only one in English) is a curious one :—

" London' un' gardin' & 7 shope in Shoe Lane in warda de } *London.*"
' Farindone extent'.

VOL. II.

TEMPORE REGIS EDWARDI II.

Escaet' de anno primo Edwardi Tercij.

Num'.

40.—" Nich'us Martyn Barnestapel maner'."

82.—" Ph'us de Columbarijs et alianora uxor ejus pro Lodowico " de Kemeys psona eccl' de Combemartyn Barnestaple " Maner'."

Anno Sexto Edwardi III.

14.—" Phillipus de columbarijs et alianora ux' ejus pro quodam " cappellano Barnestaple 40s. redd' exeunt' de quodam " furno *(fundo!)* ibm."

Anno Decimo Sexto Edwardi III.

44.—" Ricus de Mertone Snitecombe un' caruc' terr' &c. ut " de honore & Castro de Bernastaple."

50.—" Phillipus de Columbarijs Barnestaple maner'."

51.—" Alionora uxor Phi'. de Columbarijs Barnstaple maner."

Anno Decimo Octavo Edwardi III.

33.—" Nich'us d'Audeleye pro Rico Hody Barnestaple Maner; " remanent eidem Nicho."

100.—" Burgenses de Barnestaple, Barnestaple burgus diverse " libertates et privilegia ibm."

Anno Vicesimo Edwardi III.

58.—" Jacobus de Audeleye feoffavit Hugonem de Newehalle " capellanum & al' Barnestapel Maner'; remanet eidem " Jacobo."

Escaet' de anno vicesimo quinto Edwardi III.

Num'.

30.—" Joh'es de Stonford pro certis capellanis. Bremrigge " maner' ut de Baron' de Barnestaple ; reman' eidem " Johi."

Escaet' de anno tricesimo tertio Edw. III.

17.—" Jacobus de Audeleye de Heleye feoffavit Hugonem de " Newehall p'sonam eccl'ie de Southmolton Barnestaple " Maner' ; reman' eidem Jacobo."

Escaet' de anno tricesimo quarto Edw. III.

25.—" Jacobus D'Audeleye feoffavit Hugonem de Newehall " P'sonam eccl'ie de Southmolton, Barnestaple baronia " reman' eidem Jacobo."

Escaet' de anno quinquagesimo primo Edw. III.

6.—" Hugh de Courteney comes Devon'. — Barnestapel " Castrum de."

VOL. III.

TEMPORIBUS REGUM RIC. II. & HEN. IV.

Escaet' de anno primo Ricardi Secundi.

63.—" Rad'us de Willemere Barnastaple 4 Acr'. terr', &c."

Escaet' de anno Quarto Ricardi Secundi.

26.—" Thomas Filius et heres Simonis Flemmyng nuper Baro " de Slane Hautebray maner' ut de honore de " Barnestaple. — Barnestaple burgus quedam reddit', " &c."

Escaet' de anno Nono Ricardi Secundi.

Num'.

32.—" Nigellus Loringe ch'r et Margaretta Uxor ejus — " Barnestaple 10*s.* reddit' vocat Hogesfee."

Escaet' de anno Duodecimo Ricardi Secundi.

183.—" Joh'es Blake de Loddeford *de tenis suis forisfact'*— " Barnestaple castrum."

Escaet' de anno Decimo-tertio Ricardi Secundi.

31.—" Joh'es Filius et Heres Will'i de Luscote—Barnstaple " castrum."

Primo Pars escaet' de anno Decimo Quinto Ricardi Secundi.

16.—" Margaretta Uxor Hugonis de Courtenay nuper comitis' " Devon'—Barnstaple Castrum."

54.—" Joh'es Paulet ch'r et Margaretta uxor ejus—Barnestaple " castrum."

Escaet' de anno Decimo Octavo Ricardi Secundi.

26.—" Thomas filius et heres Joh'is Kayle — Barnestaple " castrum."

Escaet' de anno Vicesimo Ricardi Secundi.

17.—" Will'us de Courtenay nuper archiep'us Cantuar' — " Barnestaple castrum."

Escaet' de anno Vicesimo Primo Ricardi Secundi.

23.—" Elizabetha Uxor Fulconis Fits.Warren ch'r — " Barnestaple castrum."

Escaet' de anno Quinto Henrici Quarti.

36.—" Thomasia uxor Joh'is Chichestr'—Barnestaple Maner' " in Com. Devon Somerset, Ralegh maner juxta " Barnstaple ut de manerio de Barnstaple—Barnstaple " maner'."

Escaet' de anno Septimo Henrici Quarti.

Num^r.

55.—Robertus de Harrington Chivaler — Barnstaple reddit' " in burgo de Brendon maner'."

Escaet' de anno Octavo Henrici Quarti.

66.—" Will'us Beamond Aishwater quarta pars unus feodi " militis ut de castro de Barnstaple — Barnstaple " divers' mess', &c."

Anno Nono Regis Henrici Quarti.

36. " Fulco Fitswarin' filius et heres Fulconis Fitz Waryn " chivaler—Barnstaple castr'."

ROTULI HUNDREDORUM

TEMP. REN. III. & EDW. I.

IN TURR' LOND'

ET

IN CURIA RECEPTÆ SCACCARIJ WESTM. ASSERVATI.

VOL. I.

Devon, *Edw.* 1.

" INQUISITIONES facte p pceptu dni Regis in com' " Devon' de' jurib' & libtatib' dni Regis subtractis & excessis " vicecom' coron' escaet' & alio' ballivo' dni Regis quo' cumq' " alio' ballio' quoquomodo dnm Regem spectantib' anno " regni Regis E. t'cio."

VERED 'CM BURGI DE BARNESTABLE.

" Jur' Robtus Horbert, Benedcus de la Pille, Silvestr' de
" Fursill, Nichus Peytenin, Henr' Wytloc, Robs Rypan, Johs
" Petyt, consell Ricus de Pilton, Ricus Cissor, Thom' Bylbe,
" Benedcus le Cuyt, & Alex' le Teynturer, dicut sup sacrm
" suu Quot & que dnica mania &c. nichil."

" Dicunt qd Galfrus de Canvill tenet pdem burgum de
" BARNESTABLE cum castello de dno Rege in capite p decen sum
" Matild ux' pdci Galfri que est hes Henr' de Tracy p sviciu
" duo' militu vel q^{a} tuo' armigo' cu loric' capell ferreis &
" lancea qn dns Rex vadit in exccitu p xl dies ad custum
" pdci Galfri Et istud sviciu fecit p pdco burgo & castello
" & p membr' ptin' ad dcm burgu scilt FREMYNGTON TAVSTOK
" NEMET & BOVY Et ita tenuut antec' pdce Matild de Reg'
" Angl a tempe coquestus Willi le Bastard' Et idem
" Galfrus ht assiam panis & cvis' furkas & tumbrell & Pillor'
" a conquestu pdco Et ide Galfrus tenet pdcm burgum cu
" mbr' pdcis p baron' de dno Rege Et ptinent ad pdcum
" burg' lij feod milit' Et est pdcs burg cu mbr capd
" baron' sue."

" D' vic capientib' &c."

" Dicut Rogus Pridyas dum fuit vic' cepit de hoibus dci
" burg' xls. p hidag' faciend cont^{a} libtatem dci burgi ubi
" nucq^{a} hydag' face solebant & anteq^{a} pacem hre possent fine
" fecunt cu pdco vic' p pdcos xls."

" Dnt & qd idem Rogus dum fuit vic' tenuit t'nu suu
" pluries p annu ubi semel tene debuit p annu & amciavit
" hoies ad voluntate suam & injuste."

" Dnt & qd prior de Frompton ht wreccum maris & teolon'

" in manio suo de NORHᴬM & hoc de novo & cap' teolon' de
" hoib' pdci burgi injuste ad gᵃve dampnu pdci burgi qᵒ
" war' ignorant."

" De cetis cap' nichil sciut In cuj rei testimoniu sigilla
" pdco' jur huic inqˡ scoi sut appoita."

"In dorso." " Bur de BARNESTABLE."

VEREDICTU' HUNDR' DE NORTAUET'.

" Dicut quod NIMET Tᵉci tenetʳ in capite de dno Reg' quasi
" mebru ptines ad baroniam BARNASTAPOL & valet p ann' x
" libᵃs cu advocacone ecce."

VEREDICTU' HUNDR'I DE TEYNGEBRUGG'.

RICUS DE BABECUMBE	ROBTUS DE WREY
WILLUS HUGHETON	RICUS DE WREY
RICUS GAYER	ANDR' DE HALGHEWAL
RICUS DE GATEPATHE	WILLUS DE HUGHETON JUNIOR
JOHNES DE WYTEWEYE	WILLUS LE MARSCHALL
ROBTUS CRESPIN	MATHS DE CHYTELESBER'.

" Dicut q' Galffr' de Kaunville & Matill ux' ejus tenent
" di feod q'rtam pte & xxmᵃ' ptem feod uni milit' in SUTHBOVY
" ptinens ad baron' suam de BARDESTAPLE."

BARON' DE BARNESTAP'.

" Thom' de Chageford ten' villa de CHAGEFORD & de
" TEYNGCOMB' p homag' & svico de Galfro de Canvile Galfrs
" de Reg' & sut ij feod."

" Wills le Espee ten' villa de BRAMFORD SPEC de Hugon'
" de Cortenay p homag' & svico & secta cur' & Hug' de
" Galfro de Canvile Galfrus de Reg' & est di feod Morteyn."

" Johs Pycot ten' villam de Rewe de Elena de Gorg'
" Elena de Johe de Blakeford & idm de Galfro de Ganvile
" idm G. de Rege & est j feod."

" Wills de Campo Arnulphi ten' villam de Covelegh de
" Johe de Blakeford p homag' & svico & idm de Galfro de
" Canvile Galfris de Reg' & est q^rta ps feod."

CALENDARIUM

ROTULORUM PATENTIUM*

IN TURRI LONDINENSI.

Secunda Patent' de Anno 14° *Regis Edwardi Tertij.*

Membr.

7.—" Pro Priore de Barnestaple."

Prima Patent' de Anno 17° *R. E. T. A Tergo.*

20.—" Dors' pro Burgens' de Barnestable."

Prima Patent' de Anno 18° *R. E. T. A Tergo.*

21.—" De inquirendo de libertat' villæ de Barnstable."

* " It may be proper to observe, that as this Calendar, though entitled to " great merit, is only a selection, various entries appear on the Patent Rolls, " which are not here described; and therefore, though this work will be " found to yield abundant information, no one is to be deterred from an " examination of any record referred to elsewhere, as being on the Patent " Roll, because it is not to be discovered here."—*Preface, by the Commissioners, to Calen. Rot. Pat.*

Prima Patent' de Anno 12° *Regis Ricardi Secundi.*

Membr.

27.—" Pro Decano Ebor'.

" Rex concessit Johni de Holland fratri suo Comiti " Huntingdon et Elizabethæ uxori ejus et hæred' de " corpore Elizabethæ procreat' septigentas marcas " annuas exeunt' de certis custumis."

" Rex in valore bis mille marcarum per annum una " cum septingent' marcis. prout supra dedit Joh' " Comiti Huntingdon et hæredibus masculis de " corpore suo et de corpore dictæ Elizabethæ " procreat' manerium de Ardington ac manerium " vocat' Filberdscourt in Esthanny quæ nuper " fuerunt Aliciæ Perrers et Regi forisfact' villam " de Northwich in com' Cestriæ terr' et dominium " de Hope et Hopedale in Wallia et quendam " redditum 7*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* de exit' terr' de Couuimershe " maneria de Blakedon Ludford et Staunden juxta " Dunsterdon in Somers' maneria de Boveytracey " Barnstable Cumbemarlyn Femyngton Northlien " Holdesworthy Langacre Southmolton in com' " Devon' maner' de Takebere in Cornubia quæ " fuerunt Jacobi D'Andlegh de Helegh maner' de " Torington et Cokerington in Devon' nuper Johnis " Cary attincti ac manerium de Haselebeare in " Somerset per servitia debita."

Secunda Patent' de Anno 17° *Ricardi Secundi.*

37.—" Quod burgenses villæ de Barnestaple quæ est de " antiquo dominico coronæ Regis sint quieti de " theloneo &c. per totum regnum."

Secunda Patent de Anno 17° *Rex Edwardi Quarti.*

20.—" Arnpl' exempl' libertat' pro burgensibus de Barnes- " taple e recordis infra turr' London' existen'."

Prima Patent' de Anno 2° *Regis Henrici Quarti.*

Membr.

1.—" Ricus Lercedeken tenet de Rege per servic' milit' " ut de castro de Barnestable. n. 1."

Prima Patent' de Anno 17° *R. E. T.*

27.—" Cantar' infra castrum de Barnastable."

Secun. Pat. de Anno 13° *R. E. T.*

15.—" De escambio inter Priores de Pilton et de Bar- " nestable."

Prima Patent' de Anno 14° *R. E. T—A Tergo.*

2.—" Pro burgensibus de Barnestable in com' Devon' ac " de libertatibus suis eis concess' per Athelstanum " Regem."

Prima Pars Patent' de Anno 2° *Regis Ricardi Secundi.*

38.—" Priori de Barnestable manumisit Petro de Gorewell " villanum suum per R. confirmat'."

INDEX TO RECORDS,*

CALLED

THE ORIGINALIA AND MEMORANDA,

ON THE LORD TREASURER'S REMEMBRANCER'S SIDE OF THE EXCHEQUER.

VOL. I.

" ORIGINALIA TEMPORE REGINÆ ELIZABETHÆ BARNES- " TAPLE (Burgi) Incorporatio, in Com. Devoniæ. 2 Pars " Original. Anno 38, Rot. 11."

* The following Extract from the Preface to this Vol. deserves particular attention. The observations here made apply with equal force to the whole

" ORIGINALIA TEMPORE REGIS JACOBI I. BARNESTAPLE " Burgensibus, Libertates confirmatæ, in Com. Devon. 3 " Pars Original. Anno 9. Rotulo 26."

" BARNESTAPLE Majori & Burgensibus, Concessio Liber- " tatum, in Comitatu Dorset. 3 Pars Original. Anno 8. " Rotulo 59."

" Originalia Tempore Regis *Jacobi II.* BARNSTAPLE " Aldermani & Burgenses incorporati, in Com. Devoniæ. " 2 Pars Original. Anno 4. Rotulo 15."

VOL. II.

MEMORANDA.

" BARNESTAPLE. Pro Parte Baroniâ in Comitatu Devoniæ " Hilarii Fines, 2 Ed. III. Rot. ——"

of the works having reference to Documents preserved in the Record Office :—

" The Records of this country, in their various repositories, in point of " antiquity, preservation, correctness, authority, and extent of information, " we may say with confidence, exceed those of any other country whatever; " and all persons who have been introduced to a knowledge of their nature " and importance, have been astonished that matters of such consequence " as well to the public at large as to the individuals, should exist in our " public offices, which are always accessible, without being more generally " known and understood.

" To consider our public Records in their various points of view, we not " only find it absolutely necessary that the general historian should glean his " information from them, but we find also that to the topographical historian " they are the very essence of his work.

" These Records are of that vast extent, and contain such necessary and " useful information, and such multifarious matter, that we can, with almost " moral certainty, find a considerable portion of Record evidence relative to " all, even the smallest, denomination of landed property, throughout the " whole kingdom, and proportionally more relative to towns and places of " note."—*Preface to Jones's Index to Public Records, p. p. 3 & 4.*

" A Grant to Thomas Evingham, of the Castle and " Borough of *Barnestaple,* in Com. Devoniæ Original. " 1 Ric. III. Rot. 83."

" Majori & Burgensibus, ibid."

" Finis solutus pro Confirmatione Libertatum. Original. " 3 Hen. VIII. Rotulo. 92."

" Burgenses incorporati ac de Libertatibus eis concessis. " 1 Pars Original. 3 & 4 Phil. & Mariæ, Rotulo 43."

" Note, *Vide* Originalia *for the Charters of Queen Eliz.* " *and King James I. that of* 9 James I. *being an* " Inspeximus, recites Charters as far back as K. John."

[Aa.]

Extracts relating to Barnstaple, being literal copies from the following national works, as published by the Commissioners of Public Records:—

PLACITA DE QUO WARRANTO
ROTULORUM ORIGINALIUM, Vol. 1 and 2
TESTA DE NEVILL
PLACITUM IN DOMO CAPIT. WESTM. ASSERVATORUM
CALENDARIUM ROTULORUM ET INQUISITIONEM AD QUOD DAMNUM.

PLACITA DE QUO WARRANTO

TEMPORIBUS EDW. I. II. & III.

IN CURIA RECEPTÆ SCACCARII WESTM. ASSERVATA.

" Galfridus de Caunvle sum' fuit ad respond dno " Regi de plito quo war' clam hre visum f^nci plegii furc'

" emend assie panis & cvis' fcte in Bovy TACY que ad " Coron' dui Reg' ptinent sine lic &c."

" Et Galfridus venit et dicit qd ipe tenet maner de Bovy " TRACY p legem Angl de her' Willi Mtini sine quo no " pot' iude dno Regi respondere qui modo venit p sum' & " respond siml cum predco Galfro & dicunt qd maner' de " Bovy Tcy est quoddam membru."

" Barone ipius Willi de BARDESTAPLE ad quod pdce lib " ptinent."

" Et dicunt qd omes antec' ipi Willi a tempe quo no " exstat memor' usi sunt predcis libtatib'. Et eo war' " clam' ipe hre libtates predcas. Et quia nllm aliud inde " ostend warrantu Io ad judm. Et dat est eis dies coram " dno Rege a."

" Ad Jud'm die Pasch in unu mensem ubicumq, &c. " de audo judo suo &c. Rot. 41. d."

" Idem Galfrs sum' fuit ad r' dno Regi de plito quo war' " clam' hre visu fnci pleg' furc' tumbellu & emend assie " panis & cvis fcte in BARDESTAPLE sine lic' &c.

" Et Galfrs sunt cum predco Willo ven' et dicunt qd " BARDESTAPLE est apud Baroniam pdci Willi ad quod huj " mod ilibtates ptinent. Et qd omes antec pdci Willi a " tempe quo no exstat memor' usi sunt predcis libtatib'."

" Et eo war' clam' prodcis lib. Et q nllm aliud ostend " war' Io ad judm. Et dat est eis dies coram dno Rege a " die Pasch in unu mensem ubicuq &c. de audo judo suo. " Ad jud'm Rot. 41. d."

ROTULORUM ORIGINALIUM

IN CURIA SCACCARII ABBREVATIO.

VOL. I.

TEMPORIBUS REGUM HEN. III. ED. I. & ED. II.

In Origin' de anno R. E. fil' R. E. xix°.

Extract' Clausar'.

" R. assignavit Pho de Columbariis & Alianore ux' ejus
" sorori & un' hedum Willi fil' Willi Martyn manium de
" Coumbe Martyn cum ptin' in com' Devon' qd xxxvj^{li} xviij^{s}
" iij^{d} q' manium de Bernestaple cum ptin' in eodem com' qd
" ad xxvj^{li} xj^{s} vij^{d} obq' manium de Holne cum ptin' in
" eodem com' qd ad xix^{li} ix^{d} ob' quasdam tras & quedam
" ten' in civitate Exon' in eodem com' q' ad xij^{s} ix^{d} manium
" de Haldesworth cum ptin' in eodem com' q' ad xxx^{li} xv^{s}
" vj^{d} ob' manium de Southmolton cum hundredo forinseco
" de Southmolton et cum redditu de West-Ansti & Yest-
" Ansti cum ptin' in eodem com' q' ad xxviij^{li} ij, x^{d} q' et
" manium de Fremyngton cum ptin' in eodem com' qd ad
" cxxix^{li} xvj^{s} iij^{d} q' extendunt' p ann' hend' p partem ipsius
" Alianore, &c. Ita tamen qd pdci Plis et Alianora durante
" minore estatis Jacobi de Audelegh consanguinei & altius
" heredum pdci Willi infra etatem & in custodia R.
" existensis solvat R. p ann' vij^{s} q qui ex cedunt, &c. cepit
" fidelitatem, &c. Et ideo &c. Ro. 23."

VOL. II.

EDWARDI TERTII.

In Orig' de anno ij^{do} *R. E. III.*

Grossi Fines.

" Phus de Columbariis finem fecit p centum marcas p
" lic' hend' feoffandi Lodewycum de Kemmeys psonam

" ecclie de Combe Martyn & Rogm de Bradniche psonam
" ecclie de Berewyk de maniis de Fremyngton Barnestaple
" Combe Martyn & Holme ac aliis tris q' &c. Ro. 23."

In Orig' de anno r. r. Edwardi t'cii post conquestum xiiij.

" R. p bono s'vicio, &c. concessit Thome Crosse custodiam
" prioratuum de Craswell Cowyk Barnestaple Oteryngton
" Totteneys Tuardrayth & Moddebury ac loco' tra' tene-
" mento' & reddituum quo'cumq, ad eosdem prioratus
" spectancium q' &c. hend' qmdiu, &c. reddo inde R. p ann'
" ad sccm R. vel alibi ad mandatum R. p quolibet prioratuum
" pdco' videlt p dco prioratu de Craswell sexdecim marcas &
" p pdco prioratu de Cowyk sexaginta marcas & p pfato
" prioratu de Bernestaple decem marcas & pdco prioratu de
" de Oteryngton centum libr' & p pfato prioratu de Totteneys
" quadraginta marcas & p dco prioratu de Tuardrayth
" quadraginta & quinq libr' necnon p pdco prioratu Modde-
" bury sexdecim marcas, &c. et inveniendo, &c. salvis R.
" feodis militum, &c. Ro. 4."

Grossi Fines de Anno regni R. Edwardi t'cii post conquestum videl't Anglie quartodecimo & Franc' primo. Rotul' Vascon' 102, 103, 104, 105, 106.

" E. m. mon' R. Simon fil' Baldewini Flemmyng qd cum
" ipe in cur' R. apud Westm' recupasset seis' suam v'
" Thomam atte Barre de duab' acris cum ptin' in Barnestaple
" p consideracoem, &c. Ro. 116."

PLACITORUM IN DOMO

CAPITULARI WESTMONASTERIENSI ASSERVATORUM ABBREVATIO.

TEMPORIBUS REGUM RIC. I. JOHANN. HENR. III. EDW. I. EDW II.

REGIS RICARDI PRIMI.

Anno Sexto Regni Regis Ricardi Primi.

Placita apud Westmonasterium a die Sancti Michaelis in 15^m^ dies.

DEVON'.

" Willus de Brahost ponit loco suo, &c. vsus Olivum de " Traci de porcone sua de honore de Barstaple qm idem " Olivus ei deforciat, &c. rot. 6."

Pl'ita de Termino Pasche & de Termino S'ce Trinitat' Anno Regni Rs. Johannis Primo.

" Willus de Breus petit vsus Olivu de Traci qd teneat ei " fine fcum int eos in cur Rs de mediatate Honor de " Bardestaple sedu cyrographu fcum int eos, &c. rot. 5."

TESTA DE NEVILL

SIVE

LIBER FEODURUM

IN CURIA SCACCARII

TEMP. HEN. III. & EDW. I.

" Nomina eo' qui tenent feoda militaria in comitatu " DEVON' & de quib' ipi tenent."

" Feoda HENRICI DE TRACY de honore de BARNESTAPOL. " Inquisitio dominico' tenemento' & feoffamento' dni Reg' " vel antecesso' suo' in Devonia."

" Petrus filius Herbti tenet BERDESTAPL' cum feodo XV " milit de dono dni Reg' J. que fuit Willi Brause s' nescit' " p quod servicium."

CALENDARIUM

ROTULORUM CHARTARUM

ET

INQUISITIONUM AD QUOD DAMNUM.

27° Edw. III.

ROB'TUS BOWE.*

" Dedit fr'ibus heremitis de ordine sci Augustini ad
" eccliam at cetas domos in Barnestaple de novo
" construend' quandam placeam terre in villa predicta
" continentem quinque acr' &c'."

[B.]

A Table,† showing at one view, how many Pounds, Shillings, and Pennies, have been coined out of a Pound of Silver, at different times in England.

" Whatever the division of money may have been in
" England in the Anglo-saxon times, there is no doubt that
" it has been the same ever since the Reign of William the
" Conqueror, as at present, viz. twelve pennies in a shilling,
" which never was a real coin till the year 1504, and twenty

* The same individual as is mentioned page 32, where the name was inadvertently spelt 'Rowe.'

† In a work like the present, a Synopsis of the value of the Pound sterling at different periods, cannot, it is presumed, be unacceptable. Without such a Guide, it would be obviously impossible to form any thing like a correct Estimate of the worth of a commodity in former times, by the sum which it may have produced.

" shillings in a pound, which, though not a real coin, was " a real pound, containing twelve ounces of standard silver, " till the Reign of Edward I.; from which period the weight " of the nominal pound has gradually been diminished, till " it is now about one third of what it originally was.

		FINE SILVER.		ALLOY.				
		oz.	*dwt.*	*oz.*	*dwt.*	*£*	*s.*	*d.*
Before A. D. 1300, a pound of standard silver contained		11	2	0	18	1	0	0
1300	28 Edw. 1	11	2	0	18	1	0	3
1344	18 Edw. 3	11	2	0	18	1	2	2
1346	20 Edw. 3	11	2	0	18	1	2	6
1353	27 Edw. 3	11	2	0	18	1	5	0
1412	13 Hen. 4	11	2	0	18	1	10	0
1464	4 Edw. 4	11	2	0	18	1	17	6
1527	18 Hen. 8	11	2	0	18	2	5	0
1543	34 Hen. 8	10	0	2	0	2	8	0
1545	36 Hen. 8	6	0	6	0	2	8	0
1549	3 Edw. 6	6	0	6	0	3	12	0
1551	5 Edw. 6	3	0	9	0	3	12	0*
1551 end of 1552	6 Edw. 6	11	1	0	19	3	0	0
1553	1 Mary	11	0	1	0	3	0	0
1560	2 Eliz.	11	2	0	18	3	0	0
1601	43 Eliz.	11	2	0	18	3	2	0

" and so the money continues to the present time."—*Macpherson's Annals of Commerce.*

" There are three things to be considered wherever a sum " of money is mentioned in ancient times: first, The change " of denomination, by which a pound has been reduced to " the third part of its ancient weight in silver; secondly, " The change in value by the greater plenty of money, which " has reduced the same weight of silver to ten times less " value compared to commodities, and consequently, a " pound sterling to the thirtieth part of the ancient value;

* The Pound Sterling was thus reduced, in intrinsic value, to about four shillings and eight pence of modern money.

" thirdly, The fewer people and less industry, which were " then to be found in every European Kingdom." Our author concludes this dissertation by saying, that, " taking " all circumstances together, we are to conceive every sum " of money mentioned by historians, as if it were multiplied " more than a hundred fold above a sum of the same " denomination at present."*—*Hume's History of England, Appendix 1st.*

Bishop Fleetwood, whose work preceded Hume's by about fifty years, furnishes a very different statement of the value of money. " He determined, from a most accurate " consideration of every circumstance, that in 1240, " £4 13*s.* 9*d.* was worth about £50 of our present money, " and that £3, in the Reign of Henry 6, was equivalent to " £28 or £30 now."—*Ency. Perth. Art. Money.*

Between these very opposite accounts of the comparative value of the circulating medium, (perhaps the extremes to which calculators have gone,) the reader must be left to form his own judgement.

[C.]

Extract (copied from the Original) from the Brief held by Defendant's Counsel in an Action—WILLIAM HIERN, *(Lessee of the Castle Hill, &c.)* v. PAUL TUCKER, *(Receiver to the Corporation of Barnstaple,)* CHARLES VELLEY, JACOB IRISH, NICHOLAS DYER, JOHN SQUIRE, *and* CHARLES WRIGHT.*

" At the West End of the Town of Barnestaple, adjoining " to a navigable River, stands the Mount or Hill, called the

* The " Order in Common Council," to defend the Action, and the " Corporation Warrant of Atty." to Lewis Gregory, (Town-Clerk,) to appear

" Castle Hill, about fifty-four feet in height,* about thirty-
" eight yards in circumference, and about fifty-four feet in
" breadth at the Top, whereon anciently a Castle† stood,
" but no remains thereof are now left. To ascend to the
" Top of this Mount, which is very steep, there is a narrow
" Circular Path, as much trod and beaten as any Highway
" in England, and where there is a full Prospect of all the
" Town, the River, and Country round. This Mount was
" cast up by art, and round it is a déep Ditch, called the
" Castle Ditch, which is enclosed all round, and where time
" out of mind hath been Gardens, except on the wester side
" thereof. Adjoining to this Ditch, on the west side, is a
" common sporting-place, called the Castle Green, containing
" about half an acre of Ground, which always lay open to
" the Castle Ditch and Hill, till of late years, and through
" the said Castle Green, adjoining to the Ditch, is a common
" Foot-path, leading from one part of the Town to the other.
" In the Castle Green, Castle Ditch, and on the Castle
" Hill, all the Inhabitants of the Town have, time out of
" mind, used all manner of recreations, sports, and diver-
" sions, and constantly bowled in the said Castle Green,

for the above-named Defendants, " in His Majesty's Court of Common Pleas, at Westminster, the next Michaelmas Term," (both which Documents now lie before me,) bear date respectively, July 3, 1727, and Oct. 10, 1727. The *Brief* is without date.

* This must have been set down at random. The present height of the Mount is sixty-five feet, from the level of the Moat, (which is about twelve feet lower than the Lawn,) making, with eleven feet taken from the Top about ten years ago, by the late Mr. Rothwell, seventy-six feet. Diameter at Top, sixty feet.

The Reduction of so ancient a Mound is perhaps to be regretted; but the Premises, in other respects, owe much of their present attractiveness, to Mr. Rothwell's good taste, and liberal expenditure.

† This is manifestly an error, (such an one, however, as may well be excused in a Lawyer's Brief): that the *Keep* was on the eminence is probable enough, but we cannot for a moment suppose that an Edifice comprising, besides the necessary Fortifications, a suitable Residence, could ever have been erected on such a contracted space.

" and an Independent Company of the Militia Foot Soldiers,
" which belonged to the Town, would upon all occasions
" exercise in the said Castle Green, as would always the
" King's Soldiers, when any were quartered in the Town;
" and in the Castle Ditch, Bulls have been baited,* and Butts
" set up to shoot at with bows and arrows,† without any
" manner of denyall; and upon all occasions of public
" rejoicing, as on the 29th of May, the 5th of November,
" proclaiming or crowning of Kings and Queens, obtaining
" of Victorys, and also on the first day of July yearly, which
" was kept by some antient inhabitants of the Town in
" remembrance that the Town was on that day delivered
" from French & Irish w^ch^ came against it, and also on all
" other days of public Rejoicing, Bonfires have constantly
" time out of mind, been made on the Top of the said Hill
" and Drums beating and Great Gunns fired off without any
" manner of interruption or denyall; and Boys w^d^ every
" day play on the said Castle Hill, Castle Ditch, and Castle
" Green, and the Inhabitants of the Town would constantly
" walk there; and, in short, it is the only sporting place in
" the Town, and was more constantly used as such, and by
" more people, than is the Castle of Exon; and at our great
" Fair in September, which doth last four days, there would
" be 200 or 300 people all day playing at bowles, nine
" pins, wrestlers, and lookers on, and men, women, and
" children, continually walking up and down, sitting and
" lying on the Castle Hill, and rolling themselves down
" from the top to the bottom; and when strangers come to
" the Town, (particularly Judge —— when at Barnstaple,

* This inhuman sport has been long discontinued here, it is hoped for ever.

† This was an ancient and royal pastime. Henry 7th "Lost to my Lord Morging at Buttes, six shillings and four pence;" and for the same Monarch was "Paid to Sir Edward Boroughe thirteen shillings and four pence which the Kynge lost at Buttes with his cross-bowe."—*Strutt's Sports and Pastimes*, p. 68.

" carried there by Sir Nicholas Hooper,) they were generally " shewed up on the Top of the Castle Hill to view the Pros- " pect of the Town, the River, and Country all round; till " about 22 years since, Sir Arthur Chichester, who was " Lord of the Soyle of the said Hill, Ditch, and Green, and " had the Pasture of it, having conceived a pique against " the Burgesses of the Town, for not choosing him Member " of Parliament, granted a Lease of the said Castle Hill and " Green to one James Gibbs, for 99 years, determinable on " 3 lives."

In the margin of the brief occurs the following:— " Barnstaple a large Town, more than 6000 inhabitants."

[D.]

Grant of Barnstaple Priory, to Lord William Howard, and Lady Margaret his Wife. March 9. 29 Hen. VIII.

" THE KING to all to whom these presents shall come, " greeting. KNOW YE, that we, in consideration of the " good, faithful, and acceptable service which our beloved " William Lord Howard heretofore hath done to us, have " given and granted, and by these presents do give and " grant, to the same William Lord Howard, and Lady " Margaret, his wife, the House and Site of the late Priory " of the Monks of St. Mary Magdalene, of Barnestapoll, " otherwise Barnstaple, in our County of Devon, by the " authority of Parliament suppressed and dissolved, and all

* The Correctness of this translation may be relied on; but those persons who may prefer reading the Grant in the original language, will meet with a Latin Copy either in Dugdale's Monast. or Oliver's Monast. of Devon.

" the Church, Belfrey, and Churchyard, of the same late " Priory. And also, all our Messuages, Houses, Edifices, " Granges, Barns, Stables, Dovehouses, Gardens, Orchards, " Lands, and Soil, as well within as without the site, " inclosure, compass, circuit, and precinct, of the said late " Priory, being, belonging, and appertaining to the same " late Priory, and being parcel thereof. And also, all those " our Manors of Barnestapoll, Pylton, Strechton, and " Ingestowe, otherwise Instowe, with all their Members " and Appurtenances in the County aforesaid, to the said late " Priory belonging and appertaining. And also, all our " Rectory of the Parish Church of Barnestapoll, with all its " Rights and Appurtenances, in the County aforesaid, to the " said late Priory appropriated, belonging, and appertaining, " and the Advowson, Donation, and Right of Patronage of " the same Church and Vicarage there; and our two Water " Mills, called Port Mills, with their Appurtenances, in " Barnestapoll aforesaid, and Pylton, in the County " aforesaid, to the same late Priory belonging and apper- " taining. And also, all that our Wood called Monkewode, " with the Appurtenances in Marwode; and all our Wood, " called Yernewode, with its Appurtenances, in Pylton; and " all those our Lands and Tenements, with the Appurtenances, " in Ingestowe, in the County aforesaid, to the said late " Priory belonging and appertaining. And also, one " Annuity or Yearly Pension of a Hundred Shillings, issuing " out of the aforesaid Vicarage or Church of Barnestapoll, " in the County aforesaid, which the Vicar there for the " time being hath been accustomed to pay annually to the " said late Priory; and one Annuity or Yearly Pension of a " Hundred Shillings, issuing out of the Church or Rectory of " Georgeham, otherwise Ham St. George, in the County " aforesaid, which the Rector there hath been accustomed to " pay annually to the said Priory; and one Annuity or Yearly " Pension of Thirty Shillings, issuing out of the Rectory or

" Church of All Saints, of Fremington, in the County afore-
" said, which the Rector there hath been accustomed to
" pay annually to the said late Priory: and one Annuity or
" Yearly Rent of Forty Shillings, issuing out of the Castle
" Demesne or Manor or Borough of Barnestapoll, in the
" County aforesaid, which hath been accustomed to be paid
" to the said late Priory of Barnestapoll; to be paid at the
" Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, by the hands of
" the Rector, Bailiff, Farmers, or other Occupiers there, for
" the time being. And also, all other our Manors, Messu-
" ages, Lands, Tenements, Mills, Meadows, Feedings,
" Pastures, Woods, Underwoods, Rents, Reversions, Services,
" Annuities, Farms, Fee-Farms, Wards, Marriages, Escheats,
" Reliefs, Waters, Ponds, Stews, Warrens, Commons,
" Fisheries, Pensions, Portions, Tithes, Oblations, Courts
" Leet, Views of Frankpledge, with all things which belong
" to Views of Frankpledge, and our other Rights, Jurisdic-
" tions, Liberties, Possessions, and Hereditaments, what-
" soever, as well temporal as spiritual, of what kind, nature,
" or species soever they may be, or by whatsoever names
" they may be taken or known; with all their Rights, Mem-
" bers, Appurtenances, and Commodities whatsoever; situate,
" lying, and being, in the Towns, Fields, Parishes, or
" Hamlets, of Barnestapoll, Pylton, Bradford, Strechton,
" Wethrige, Delbrige, Fullyngote, Nethercote, Instowe,
" Collecote, Marwode, Cride, Georgeham, otherwise Ham
" Saint George, West Ansty, Wolley Down, Shyrewell,
" Heawnton Poncherdon, East Hankenden, Berrynarber,
" Chalacombe, Langtre, Kyntesbury, Keymelond, Stoke
" Ryvers, Potyngdon, and Fremyngton, in the County
" aforesaid, or elsewhere wheresoever, to the said late Priory
" in any manner appertaining or belonging, as fully and
" entirely, and in as ample a manner and form, as Robert
" Thorne, late Prior of the said late Priory of Barnestapoll,
" or his Predecessors, or the Priors of the same place, in

" right of that Priory, on the 4th day of February, in the " 27th year of our reign, or ever before all and singular the " Premises, with the Appurtenances, have been held or " enjoyed, or ought to have; and as fully and entirely, and " in as ample a manner and form, as all and singular those " Premises came to our hands, or ought to come, and now " are, or ought to be in our hands, by reason and pretext of " a certain Act for the dissolving certain Monasteries, " Abbies, Priories, and Religious Houses, and in our " Parliament at London, begun on the 3rd day of November, " in the 21st year of our Reign, and thence adjourned to " Westminster, and by divers prorogations continued unto, " and on the 4th of February, in the 27th year of our Reign, " and then there held amongst other things is enacted and " provided. AND FURTHER, we give, and by these " presents grant, to the aforesaid William Lord Howard, and " Lady Margaret his Wife, the Rectory of the Parish Church " of Tottenham, with the Appurtenances, in our County of " Middlesex, to the late Priory of the Holy Trinity, London, " lately dissolved, belonging, and appertaining; and the " Advowson, Donation, and Right of Patronage of the same " Church and Vicarage there; and all our Manors, Messu- " ages, Houses, Edifices, Barns, Lands, Tenements, Woods, " Rents, Reversions, Services, Tithes, Oblations, Obventions, " Pensions, Portions, Courts, and other Rights, Jurisdictions, " Liberties, Possessions, and Hereditaments whatsoever, as " well spiritual as temporal, of what kind, nature, or species " soever, or by whatsoever names the same may be taken " or known; with all their Rights, Members, Appurtenances, " Commodities whatsoever, situate, lying, and being in the " Towns, Places, Fields, Parishes, and Hamlets of Totten- " ham aforesaid, and Edelmeton, in the County of Middlesex " aforesaid, to the said late Priory of the Holy Trinity of Lon- " don, in any manner appertaining or belonging, as fully and " entirely, and in as ample a manner and form as Nicholas

" Hancock, late Prior of the said late Priory of the Holy " Trinity, or his Predecessors or Priors of the same late " Priory, in right of that Priory, at the time of the dissolu- " tion of the same late Priory, or theretofore have been held " or enjoyed, or ought to have done. WE ALSO give, and " by these presents grant to the aforesaid William Lord " Howard, and Lady Margaret his Wife, View of Frankpledge, " and all things which belong to Frankpledge, Goods of " Felons, Fugitives, Outlaws, Condemned Persons, Felons, " of themselves, and Deodands, in all and singular the " aforesaid Manors, Lands, Tenements, and other Pre- " mises, and in every part thereof; all and singular which " said Premises above granted by these presents, with the " Appurtenances, are of the clear value of £155 4*s.* 6*d.* a " year, and not beyond. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the " House and Site aforesaid, and the Manors, Messuages, " Lands, and all and singular other the Premises above " specified, with the Appurtenances, to the aforesaid " William Lord Howard, and Lady Margaret his Wife, and " the Heirs of their Bodies between them lawfully begotten, " and for default of such issue, then to remain to the Heirs " of the body of the said William Lord Howard, lawfully " begotten. TO BE HOLDEN of us, our Heirs, and " Successors, in Capite by Knight's Service, to wit, by the " Tenth Part of a Knight's Fee, and by the Rent of £21 " yearly, to our Heirs and Successors, to be paid at the " Court of Augmentation of the Revenues of our Crown, " at the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, for all " Services, Exactions, and Demands whatsoever, of, in, or " for the Premises, in any manner to be done, performed, " yielded, or paid. AND FURTHER, we give, and by " these presents grant to the aforesaid William Lord Howard, " the Issues, Revenues, and Profits of the Premises, from " the Feast of the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary, " in the 27th year of our Reign, hitherto arising or accruing,

" TO HOLD the same to the same William Lord Howard,
" of our gift, without yielding, paying, or performing any
" Account, or any thing else to us, our Heirs, or Successors.
" So that express mention, &c. IN WITNESS whereof,
" &c. Witness the King at Westminster, on the 9th day
" of March."

" By the King himself, and of the date aforesaid, &c."

[The Signature, which is given for its singularity, is a close copy of a Fac-simile, appended to a Document printed in an old Work on Godstow Abbey, Oxfordshire.]

CHAPTER II.

PUBLIC CHARITIES OF BARNSTAPLE.

Penrose's, or Litchdon Almshouse; Penrose's Gift, Beaple's Gift, Palmer's Gift, Harris's Gift, Rolle's Gift, Stanbury's Gift—Horwood's Almshouse—Paige's Almshouse; Canford's Gift, Appley's Gift, Paige's Gift—Harris's Almshouse—Beaple's Gift—Skinner's Gift—Cornish's Gift. —Jeffery's Gift—Delbridge's Gift—Olivean's Gift—Mayne's Gift—Monies given to be lent—Appley's Gift—Lugg's Gift —Richard Ferris, Senior's, Gift—Sir John Acland's Gift —Horsham's Gift—Webber's Gift—Westlake's Gift— Baron's Gift—Richard Ferris's Gift—Phillips's Gift— Drake's Gift—Tippetts's Gift—Cordwainer's Lands— Grammar School; Ferris's Gift, Wright's Gift—Charity School—Alice Horwood's School for Girls—Newcommen's Gift—Martin's Gift—Stanbury's Gift for Reading Prayers —Appendix.

The following Statement is taken from "The Report of the Commissioners concerning Charities."—

PENROSE'S, OR LITCHDON ALMSHOUSE.

PENROSE'S GIFT.

John Penrose, of Barnstaple, merchant, by his will, bearing date the 14th June, 1624, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, reciting that he had assigned to William Palmer and others, all his estate

in certain lands in the parish of Hartland, which his father-in-law, Richard Beaple, and himself, had in mortgage, jointly, from Nicholas Luttrel, Esq. directed that if the said Nicholas Luttrel should not pay the mortgage money, the said William Palmer and others should sell his moiety of the said lands, and all his term therein ; the money made thereof to be employed towards the performance of his will. And, after various devices and bequests, he directed that his executors should convert all the rest of his goods, chattels, and estate whatsoever, not before given, into money, and with part thereof should purchase to them and their heirs, some convenient room or place within the borough and parish of Barnstaple, fit to erect an almshouse upon, and the same being so purchased, should, with part of the said money, erect thereupon such and so many several rooms for an almshouse, as they in their discretion should think fit, and that his said executors, with the money left in their hands after the said charges, should purchase such and so much lands, rents, and hereditaments, to them and their heirs, as the same money should be equal to pay for ; and that such lands, and the issues and profits thereof, should be for ever employed for the maintenance of the said almshouse, and for and towards the relief and maintenance of the poor people from time to time placed in the same. And he also directed, that his executors, and the survivors of them, should have the sole ordering and government of the said almshouse, as long as any three of them should be living; and that when they, by death, should come to the number

of two, the mayor, aldermen, and capital burgesses, and common council of Barnstaple, for the time being, should from thenceforth have the ordering, government, and disposing of the said almshouse, and the placing and displacing of the poor people therein, and should improve such lands so purchased for the purposes aforesaid, at the best yearly profits they might, and should not lease any part thereof for any fine, but at a yearly rack-rent, for the better maintenance of the said almshouse, and poor people therein. He also directed, that after his executors should, by death, come to the number of two, they should enfeoff six others of the common council of the said borough, of the said lands, and so from time to time, for ever, as often as the feoffees should come to the number of two; and he also directed that the poor people, to be placed in the almshouse, should be inhabitants within the said borough or parish, and none of any other place. And he appointed Richard Beaple, William Palmer, James Bulteel, Gilbert Page, and Richard Medford, to be executors of his said will.

The said testator, by a codicil to his will, bearing date 21st June, 1624, reciting that he had by his said will, given to his brother, George Penrose, all his estate, term, and interest in his messuage, wherein he dwelt in Barnstaple, and in his tenement and stable in Paige Lane, the inheritance of the heirs of Appley, and in his garden adjoining to the Castle Lane of the said borough, reputed to be belonging to the Corporation of Barnstaple, and in a close of land called Newcombe's Close, another close called Fardeliscombe

Meadow, and another close called Slade, in the said parish, thereby revoked the said devise to his brother of those premises, and gave the same to his said brother George, from the time of his (the testator's) death, for fifty years, if his said brother should so long live, and his interest in the same should so long continue respectively. And he gave to the said mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of Barnstaple, after the death of his said brother, his estate and interest in the said premises, and directed that when they should come into their hands, they should demise the said messuage wherein he dwelt, the said tenement and stable in Paige Lane, and the said garden, to some of the capital burgesses and common council of the said borough, for the time being, who would give most for the same; and the said three closes of land, to any persons who would give most for the same, at a yearly rack rent, and should bestow the rents and profits yearly arising out of the same, when they should amount to a competent sum, in some lands for an estate of inheritance, and should employ the rents and profits of the land so to be purchased, yearly, from time to time, for ever, towards the relief and maintenance of the poor people to be placed in the almshouse mentioned in his will, to be erected; and that the said lands so to be purchased, should be let for a yearly rack rent; provided that if his said brother, George, should have issue male of his body, such issue should, after the death of his brother, hold and enjoy the said premises, as long as any issue male should continue, to his and their own use.

The premises devised by this codicil are not, at this time, nor can we find any trace of their ever having been, in the possession of this almshouse. It does not appear what term or interest the testator had in this property, nor is it known whether the contingency happened of the failure of issue male of the body of the testator's brother, George Penrose, without which the charity was not entitled to any benefit under the codicil.

A part of the property now belonging to the almshouse, consists of an undivided moiety of lands in the parish of Hartland, (Nos. 3, and 4, in the rental, stated in a subsequent part of this Report,) the possession of which is only accounted for by supposing these lands to be the same as are mentioned in Penrose's will, as held in mortgage, jointly, by his father-in-law, Richard Beaple, and himself.

We have not been able to find any account of the produce of the residue of the testator's personal estate, or of the manner in which it was applied; but an unexecuted deed, bearing date 18th December, 1670, found amongst the documents of the corporation of Barnstaple, was produced to us, purporting to be a conveyance from John Downe, as the surviving feoffee of the lands of Litchdon almshouse, to the then mayor, deputy recorder, aldermen, and others, of Barnstaple, of the almshouse, with the gardens thereunto belonging, of a messuage and garden in Anchor Lane, and a close, containing by estimation two acres, adjoining Barbican Lane, which messuage and close are there stated to have been purchased of William Warman, for

an endowment of the said almshouse. It seems probable, therefore, that the money arising from Penrose's gift, was applied in the purchase of the property comprised in this deed. The close adjoining Barbican Lane, and the house and garden in Anchor Lane, now form a part of the Almshouse Lands, Nos. 1 and 2, in the rental. We have not been able to find any other deeds for the purpose of preserving the trust in the manner directed by the founder of this almshouse.

BEAPLE'S GIFT.

Richard Beaple, by his will, bearing date 13th April, 1641, gave to his executors £420, to the intent that they should therewith purchase so much land of inheritance as should be of the yearly value of £20, the yearly profits thereof to be bestowed upon four poor people of the new almshouse erected by Mr. John Penrose, deceased, such of them as he should nominate in his life-time, and in default thereof, such as should be nominated by his executors, by £5 a-piece, to be paid quarterly; and the same annuity of £20 to continue for ever to four poor people of the said almshouse, to be nominated, after the death of all his executors, by the mayor, aldermen, and common council of Barnstaple, or the major part of them. And he directed, that until the said lands should be purchased, the said £420 should be put forth at interest at six per cent, the profits thereof to be bestowed upon the said four poor people.

It is supposed that the tenement called Darracott, in the parish of Georgeham, now belonging to this

charity, (No. 6 in the rental,) was purchased with the money thus given by Richard Beaple; but we have not been able to find the purchase-deeds of that tenement.

In the returns made to Parliament in 1786, it is stated, that the said Richard Beaple gave a third part of the residue of his effects to this almshouse, with which a house was purchased, let, at the time of making those returns, at the rent of £8 8*s*. per annum. As there is a house in High-street, Barnstaple, now in possession of the charity, let at £8 8*s*. per annum, (No. 7 in the rental,) it is probably the house alluded to in the returns; but upon an inspection of this donor's will, which was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, it is not found to contain any such bequest of a part of the residue of his effects to this almshouse.

PALMER'S GIFT.

In an old book, found amongst the documents of the corporation of Barnstaple, containing the mayor's accounts for various years, at different periods, and also containing statements of some of the charitable donations to this town, it is mentioned, that William Palmer, of Barnstaple, merchant, by his will gave for the use of the poor in Penrose's almshouse, certain lands in East Heyland, within the parish of Fremington, after one life, for ever. It also appears, from an account in the same book, that in 1657, the then mayor and aldermen received from Anthony Palmer, one of the executors of the said William Palmer, £100, for the use of the poor, of which the sum of £88, was then

paid to Richard Gay, esquire, for his estate in a tenement called East Heyland, for the use of the poor in Penrose's almshouse, devised by the said William Palmer, after the determination of the estate of the said Richard Gay. The charity is now in possession of lands in East Heyland, or Yelland. (No. 8 in the rental.)

The will of this William Palmer was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1653; but the only charitable gift contained in it is a bequest of £10 to the poor of Barnstaple, to be distributed within three months after his decease. The returns made to Parliament in 1786, state his donation to the almshouse to have been made by deed in 1651, but we have not been able to find any such document.

HARRIS'S GIFT.

An inscription, on one of the tablets in the church, states, that Richard Harris, in 1655, gave £50 to this almshouse; but we have not been able to find any further trace of this donation.

ROLLE'S GIFT.

Denys Rolle, esquire, who represented this borough in Parliament, gave, in 1763, £100 for the support of this almshouse.

STANBURY'S GIFT.

Joan Stanbury, by her will, in 1772, gave £20 to the poor of this almshouse.

It has been customary for the two oldest members of

the corporation, who have passed the chair, to have the management of this charity during their lives, to receive the rents, make the payments, and keep the accounts, the senior of whom acts as treasurer.

The accounts have been produced to us from 1774 to the present time, being those of Messrs. Roch and Colley from 1774 to 1797, of Messrs. Roch and Shepherd from 1797 to 1804, of Messrs. Greek and Moule from 1804 to 1815, and of Messrs. Nicholas Glass and John Roberts from 1815 to 1822. The balances in hand have been carried forward to each succeeding account, but there does not appear to have been any regular audit of the accounts, except in 1797 and 1804, when they were examined by a committee of the corporation. We suggested to the corporation the propriety of appointing a fixed day for an annual audit of the accounts of this and other charities of which they are trustees.

The following rental contains a statement of the property held in trust by the corporation, for the benefit of this charity:—

No.	DONORS.	PARISH.	PREMISES.	Quantity.	LESSEES.
				A.R.P.	
1	Penrose	Barnstaple	A field in Barbican Lane, called Fox's Field.	1 3 34	Harry Leworthy Ditto
2	Ditto	Ditto	A public house in Anchor Lane, called the Seven Stars.	0 0 0	Charles Dart
3	Ditto	Hartland	An undivided moiety of a messuage and lands in West Titchbury containing, in the whole	131 0 18	
			And an undivided moiety of three fields, called Hodge's Parks, and Gawlish, in East Titchbury, containing, in the whole	5 3 2	James Haynes
4	Ditto	Ditto	An undivided moiety of two fields called Roosdon Plots, part of West Titchbury.	about 4 0 0	Rev. T. Hooper Morrison
5	Ditto	Ditto	An undivided moiety of a tenement called Mansley, containing, in the whole	61 1 29 of which 21 1 8 are down land.	Thomas Prust
6	Beaple	Georgeham	A tenement called Darracott.	22 2 38	Peter Smith
7	Ditto, supposed	Barnstaple	A house in High-street.	0 0 0	John Loosemore now Miss Elizabeth Langdon
8	Palmer	Fremington	Six closes of land in Yeiland.	23 1 3	Henry Moule
9	Rolle	100l. invested in two deeds poll of 50l. each, one of the Barnstaple and the other of the Southmolton Turnpike, bearing interest at 4 per cent.			
10	Stanbury	80l. invested in 94l. Old South Sea Annuities.			
11		131l. 2s. 11d. Old South Sea Annuities, purchased by the treasurer in 1788, with 100l. arising from surplus income.			

TERM.	RENT.	Estimated clear yearly Value.	OBSERVATIONS.
	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	
14 years from Lady-day, 1819.	15 15 0	good rent	Let by auction.
	15 0 0 additional rent for clay for bricks in the same field.		The tenant has agreed to pay this additional rent as long as the clay in the field lasts, and to lay down the land for pasture at the end of his term.
11 years from Lady-day, 1822, determinable at the end of seven years.	47 0 0	good rent	Let by auction; the former rent was 21l. More than 40l. has lately been expended from the funds of the charity in the improvement of these premises; they are now in good repair. The trustees covenant to do the external repairs.
14 years from Lady-day, 1810.	60 0 0	good rent	Let by auction; the lessee is the owner of the other moiety of this estate.
21 years from Lady-day, 1817.	3 0 0	good rent	The lessee of No. 3 is the owner of the other moiety of these fields. They now form a part of the pleasure grounds of the Rev. T. H. Morrison, and are marked by boundary stones.
21 years from Lady-day, 1806.	17 10 0	good rent	Let by private contract after an auction had been held; the trustees covenant to repair the walls of the buildings, and a small sum is usually allowed to the tenant out of the rent for this purpose.
21 years from Lady-day, 1809.	31 0 0	good rent	Let by auction.
60 years from 25th Dec. 1773.	8 8 0	20 0 0	This house was in a dilapidated state when the present repairing lease was granted. It is now in good repair.
Yearly tenant.	17 11 0	20 0 0	The rent appears to have been of the same amount in 1786. It is proposed to re-let these closes by auction, but they are stated to consist of indifferent land, and it is not expected that the rent will be much increased; 12s. 3d. has been annually allowed to the tenant of these lands for land-tax.
	4 0 0		[A.]*
	0 14 10		
	4 0 0		
	£203 18 10		

* The Letters refer to the Appendix at the end of the Chapter.

The almshouse is a large building, in good repair, situate in Litchdon-street, Barnstaple, and consists of twenty dwelling-houses, each containing two alms people, with a large Garden behind, divided into portions amongst the inhabitants. In one of the wings is a chapel, in which prayers are read twice in the week by one of the almsmen, and in the other wing is a room, formerly used as a compting house.

The almspeople are appointed from the poor parishioners of Barnstaple, a preference being given to natives, and usually to women. At the time of our investigation, in September, 1822, they consisted of thirty-six women and four men. There is no specified age for their appointment, but they are seldom chosen under the age of fifty. Upon the first vacancy that occurs by death, after the mayor for the time being enters upon his office, a successor is nominated by him. The others are supplied alternately by the two acting trustees. Each of the almspeople receives six shillings (making in the whole £12,) per lunar month. In 1804, the allowance was £6 per lunar month, from which it has been gradually augmented, as the rents have increased, to its present amount. In part of the winter of 1819-1820, in consequence of the severity of the winter, the monthly allowance was further augmented to £14. On particular occasions a small additional donation has been made to the almspeople from the funds of the charity. Many of the inhabitants, both of this almshouse and of Horwood's and Paige's almshouses, receive parochial relief, in addition to their allowances from the respective charities.

The following is a summary of the average annual expenditure on account of this almshouse :—

	£	s.	d.
Allowance to the almspeople, at £12 per lunar month	156	0	0
Additional allowance to one of them for reading prayers, at 7s. 6d. per quarter	1	10	0
Insurance	1	5	0
Chief Rents payable out of parts of the premises to Barnstaple Bridge	0	10	0
Payment to the poor of Paige's almshouse, in respect of an annuity given by William Canford, understood to be charged upon some part of the almshouse lands	0	6	8
Land Tax allowed to the tenant of No. 8 in the rental	0	12	3
Repairs of the almshouse on an average of five years, including a small allowance to the tenant of No. 5. for repairs, and a small sum for receipt stamps	21	0	0
	£181	3	11

No expense whatever is incurred for managing the charity, or keeping the accounts.

It will be seen that the annual income, as stated in the rental, exceeds the expenditure by more than £40; but it should be observed, that the increased rent of No. 2 took place only from Lady-day, 1822, and that the rent paid for digging clay in No. 1 can only be considered as temporary income.

Upon the treasurer's accounts, as made up to the time of our enquiry, there was a balance of £98 2*s*. 1*d*. in favor of the charity, in addition to which arrears of

rent were due from some of the tenants; and on the other hand, a part of the expense of the repairs of the Seven Stars public-house, No. 2, amounting to about £30, remained unpaid. We were informed by the acting trustees, that they proposed, with part of the balance in hand, and the temporary income that will arise from digging clay in No. 1, to purchase stock in the public funds, with a view to provide a fund for the repairs of the almshouse, the annual expense of which, from the age of the building, may be expected to increase.

The inhabitants of this almshouse, in addition to the above-mentioned allowances, receive £4 per annum, arising from Phillip's gift, mentioned in a subsequent part of this Report, ten shillings of which is paid to the almsman who reads prayers, and the residue is divided equally at Christmas amongst all the almspeople, in sums of one shilling and nine pence to each.

The above-mentioned John Penrose, by his said will, gave to the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the borough and parish of Barnstaple, £200, to be by them employed in the keeping to work some of the poor people of the said borough and parish, in the house newly erected near the Castle, for keeping the people to work, called the Bridewell.

It appears, from entries in the old book of mayors' accounts before referred to, that this bridewell was built by the town at an expense of £300; and that in 1633 it was found that, by the carelessness of the

keeper of the bridewell, there was not so much good done to the poor as had been expected, and that the town was every year at the expense of repairing the house and other things, and that it was therefore thought good to appoint John Cole to be keeper of the bridewell, who should have the house, and the use of £100 given by John Penrose, for the performance of his office; and that the other £100 should be lent at six per cent. for the reparations of the house, and other charges for diet, &c. We have not found any further trace of this sum of £200. The bridewell described as being near the castle, is supposed to be the present parish workhouse. [B.]

HORWOOD'S ALMSHOUSE.

An inscription on this almshouse states, that it was founded and endowed by Thomas Horwood, merchant, who began it in his life, and was finished by his widow Mrs. Alice Horwood.

By indenture, bearing date 7th September 1674, between the said Alice Horwood, Richard Hooper, mayor elect of the borough of Barnstaple, William Wescombe, alderman, and Arthur Acland and two others, capital burgesses of the said borough, of the one part, and Christopher Hunt, mayor of the said borough, and Thomas Harris and three others, capital burgesses of the same, of the other part, reciting, that the said Alice Horwood, by indenture, bearing date 15th August 1665, for settling of the messuages and

lands in that indenture mentioned to the uses therein expressed, granted to the said parties of the first part, together with five others since deceased, and their heirs, a plot of land, containing in length, north and south, 70 feet, and in breadth, east and west, 47 feet, and a plot of land next adjoining, called the Little Court, containing in length, 26 feet, and in breadth, 11 feet, and the almshouse thereon erected, situate in or near Whitpit-lane, in the borough of Barnstaple, between the lands then of Edward Eastmond on the east, the lane called Whitpit-lane, the old almshouses and the lands belonging to the long bridge of Barnstaple on the west, the lands of Henry Greenwood and Mrs. Paige's new erected almshouse on the north, and the lands of the said Edward Eastmond, and the lands belonging to the long bridge of Barnstaple on the south, and also a garden and garden-house, then in the possession of the said Alice Horwood and the persons then resident in the said new erected almshouse between the church-yard on the north, the lands of Gabriel Sherman on the south, the lands of John Barret and part of a garden in the occupation of Nicholas Delbridge on the west, and the lands in the occupation of Robert Fosse and others on the east, and two quillets of land, containing two borough acres, and one piece of a marsh adjoining thereto, in Bishop's Newport, within the parish of Bishop's Tawton, and a stable situate in Paige's Lane, in Barnstaple, and a messuage and tenement, with the appurtenances, in Newport aforesaid, then in the possession of the said Alice Horwood, and the writings concerning the said

premises, which were to be left in the town chest in the Guildhall of the said borough, to the use of the said Alice Horwood, for life, and after her decease, upon trust, that the said trustees should dispose of the rents and profits of the said premises (subject to an annuity payable thereout to certain persons, for their lives) in the reparations of the said almshouses and other premises, and the relief of the poor therein, and upon further trust, that the said trustees or the major part of them should, from time to time, upon the death or removal of any of the poor persons resident and placed in the said almshouse, supply such vacancy, by placing in each room or dwelling two such poor and ancient decayed people as the major part of them should think fit, having always regard to the wants of any poor relations of Thomas Horwood, deceased, the late husband of the said Alice, to prefer them before others, and upon trust, that the walk and garden-house in the said alms-garden should be for the use of the said trustees, for ever, for their general meetings; and reciting, that the said Alice Horwood had, by the said indenture, declared, that when the trustees should be reduced to six, the survivors should convey the said premises to such four seniors of the capital burgesses of Barnstaple and their heirs, as should not before be of the number of the survivors, to the use of themselves and the said four seniors, upon the like trusts; and reciting, that the said Alice Horwood desired that the six surviving trustees should convey the said premises, upon the trusts aforesaid, to such four of the capital burgesses as the major part of them should think fit;

and in case they should not agree in the nomination of such four capital burgesses, such as the mayor and aldermen of the said borough or any two of them should appoint; and that they should not be obliged to grant the same to the seniors of the capital burgesses; it was witnessed, that the said Alice Horwood and the other parties of the first part, by her direction, granted and enfeoffed the before mentioned premises to the parties of the second part and their heirs, to the use of themselves and the surviving trustees, upon the trusts mentioned in the said recited indenture, with such alteration in the mode of appointing the new trustees as before mentioned.

The following rental shows the property belonging to this almshouse:—

No.	PARISH.	LESSEES.	PREMISES.
1	Borough of Newport, in the parish of Bishop's Tawton.	John Westacott	House, orchard, and garden, part of Pudridge.
2	Ditto	John Bentley and Wm. Hutton	A barn and field, other part of Pudridge.
3	Ditto	William Ackland	Two fields.
4	Ditto	William Thorne	Two fields at Rupsham.
5	Barnstaple	William Cotton	Small stable and ash-pit in Paige's-lane.

£100 New South Sea Annuities, which appears to have been purchased in 1759, in consequence of an order of the common council, by the two then acting trustees in the name of the mayor and aldermen of Barnstaple, for 89l. 2s. 9d. (being part of a sum of 102l. belonging to this charity, the residue of which sum was directed to be applied for the repairs of the houses) producing the yearly dividends of

It does not appear from whence this sum of 102l. was derived.

£10 given by the will of Joan Stanbury in 1778, vested in 14l. 4s. 11d. Old South Sea Annuities, producing the yearly dividend of

The last trust deed of these premises bears date the 1st and 2nd January, 1801, under which six trustees are now living.

It has been customary for the two members of the corporation next in seniority to the two seniors, to have the management of this charity, and to grant the leases of the lands held under it. At the time of our investigation, the acting trustees were Mr. John May and Mr. Richard Rowe Metherell, who are also two of the surviving trustees under the deed of 1801, and the accounts were kept by Mr. John May, junior, for his father.

The almshouse is situate in Church Lane, and consists of eight dwellings, containing two rooms each, inhabited by sixteen poor persons, men and women,

Quantity.	TERM.	RENT.	Yearly Value.	OBSERVATIONS.
A. R. P.		L. S. D.		
0 3 14	7 years from Lady-day, 1820.	11 11 0	good rent	Let by auction; the trustees do the repairs; some repairs wanting.
2 1 8	Ditto	22 5 0	ditto	Let by auction.
2 0 2	Ditto	14 0 0	ditto	ditto.
1 3 19	7 years from Michaelmas, 1821.	8 0 0	ditto	Let by private contract, after an auction held.
	Yearly tenant.	2 2 0	ditto	
		3 0 0	ditto	
		0 8 8	ditto	
		61 6 8		

with a small garden plot allotted to each dwelling. It is in a fair state of repair. The almspeople are appointed from the poor of Barnstaple, alternately, by the acting trustees, as vacancies occur, and at the time of our investigation, consisted of two men and fourteen women ; each of them receives five shillings per lunar month, and the rent of the stable in Paige's lane, being two guineas a year, is divided among them at Christmas. Small additional donations are also made to them out of the funds of the charity, on particular occasions.

The following is a summary of the annual expenditure :—

	£	s.	d.
Sixteen almspeople, at five shillings each per lunar month	52	0	0
Rent of the stable in Barnstaple, divided amongst them at Christmas . .	2	2	0
Chief rent payable to the lord of the manor of Newport	0	8	9
Insurance	0	10	0
Repairs, on an average of the last three years	4	4	0
	£59	4	9

besides small incidental expenses for letting the property.

The balance in favor of the charity at the time of our investigation, was 10*s.* 11*d.* and there were then arrears of rent due to Midsummer, 1822, amounting to £8 1*s.* 6*d.* There have been hitherto no regular audits of the accounts of this charity, but the book of

accounts has been occasionally produced for inspection, at the meeting of the corporation.

In 1820, a donation of £3 from Sir Francis Ommaney, and a donation of £5 from Michael Nolan, esquire, to this almshouse, were received by Mr. John May, junior, and carried to the general account thereof.

Each of the poor persons in this almshouse, received one shilling twice in the year, from Phillips's gift, and sixpence twice in the year, from Tippetts's gift, hereinafter mentioned.

PAIGE'S ALMSHOUSE.

The almshouse called Paige's almshouse, is situate in Church Lane, and consists of four dwellings of two rooms each, without garden or courtlage, inhabited by eight poor persons; one of which dwellings, as appears from the will of Elizabeth Paige, hereinafter stated, was built by her in her life-time, and for rebuilding the others of which, on the site of a more ancient almshouse, she gave by her said will, £100.

For the support of this ancient establishment, the two following donations of William Canford and Robert Appley, appear to have been previously given.

CANFORD'S GIFT.

It appears from the before-mentioned old book of mayors' accounts, that William Canford, by his will, bearing date 28th July, 1553, gave to Roger North,

and others, and their heirs, a tenement and meadow, amongst other uses, for the payment of an annuity of 6*s*. 8*d*. towards the relief and maintenance of the poor of the almshouse in Barnstaple.

The premises charged with this annuity are supposed to be a part of those now belonging to Penrose's almshouse; and the annuity of 6*s*. 8*d*. is paid by the trustees of that charity, and divided amongst the poor inhabitants of Paige's almshouse.

APPLEY'S GIFT.

Robert Appley, alderman, of Barnstaple, by his will, bearing date 7th October, 1594, gave to William Collybeare, then mayor of Barnstaple, and ten others, and their heirs, a messuage, orchard, garden, and close of land, situate in the borough of Newton [Newport]* Bishop, upon trust, to permit the mayor and aldermen of the town of Barnstaple to receive the rents and profits thereof, whom he appointed to distribute the same quarterly, unto such twelve poor people as should be, according to the ancient custom of the said borough of Barnstaple, admitted from time to time, into the almshouse of the said town.

These Premises (now called Congerham's) are situate within the borough of Newport, in the parish of Bishop's Tawton, and consist of a house, garden, and plot of land, containing in the whole, 1A. 20P. let to William Fairchild, under a lease from the mayor and aldermen of Barnstaple, granted by public auction,

* For any interlineations in this Report marked thus, [ ] the Editor is responsible.

for eleven years from Lady-day, 1814, at the yearly rent of £18, which it was found necessary to reduce after the first year of the term, to £14, and this is now considered a good rent. The house is old, and in a decayed state. The tenant covenants to do all repairs except those of the walls of the house. The rent is received from him quarterly, by one of the almswomen, and after payment for the necessary repairs of the almshouse, (which is in an indifferent state of repair,) the residue is divided equally amongst the poor inhabitants thereof. [D.]

PAIGE'S GIFT.

Elizabeth Paige, by her will, bearing date 9th March, 1656, gave to the building and erecting of the almshouses, (then in decay,) [situate in the Lane] commonly called the Alms Lane, and adjoining to the almshouse built by herself, £100, to be bestowed therein at the discretion of her executors. She also gave to the mayor and aldermen of Barnstaple for the time being, and their successors, £50, to be lent forth for the benefit of those poor people who should be thereafter placed in those almshouses, when built, and towards repairing of the almshouse then already built, as well as those to be built, and the remaining profit of the said £50 to be yearly distributed equally unto the said poor, the week before Christide.

The annual sum of 50*s*. is paid by the corporation, as the interest of the sum of £50, and divided equally amongst the poor inhabitants of this almshouse on St. Thomas's day.

A further annual sum of 20*s*. is also divided at the same time, amongst them and the inhabitants of Harris's almshouse, hereinafter mentioned, arising as follows;—The corporation, as holding the Castle-court manor, in Barnstaple, under the late Sir John Chichester, baronet, were bound to provide for him two annual fish dinners, his claim to which he voluntarily relinquished, on payment by the corporation, of two annuities of 20*s*. each, one amongst the poor of this establishment and of Harris's almshouse, and the other for the support of the charity school of the town, and the same arrangement has been continued by the present Sir Arthur Chichester. [E.]

The almspeople are appointed as vacancies occur, from the poor persons of Barnstaple, by the mayor for the time being. At the time of our investigation, all of them were women, but men have sometimes been appointed.

They receive one shilling each, twice in the year, from Phillips's gift, and six-pence each, twice in the year, from Tippetts's gift, hereinafter mentioned.

HARRIS'S ALMSHOUSE.

It appears from an inscription on a tablet in the church of this parish, that Thomas Harris, in 1646, gave £20 to build an almshouse for some poor, in the church-yard.

The house supposed to have been built, in consequence of this bequest, adjoins to the church-yard, and

to Paige's almshouse above-mentioned. It is inhabited by poor persons, placed there by the mayor of Barnstaple for the time being, and is repaired by the occupiers. The present inhabitants are the sexton of the parish, and his wife, who receive one shilling each, out of the annuity of twenty shillings mentioned in the account of Paige's almshouse; one shilling each, twice in the year, from Phillips's gift; and six-pence each, twice in the year, from Tippetts's gift.

BEAPLE'S GIFT.

Richard Beaple, whose gift to Penrose's almshouse has been already mentioned, by a codicil to his said will, bearing date 14th November, 1642, gave to the mayor and aldermen of Barnstaple, and their successors, for ever, to the use of the poor people of the town of Barnstaple, a yearly rent-charge of £20, to be issuing out of his barton and demense of Hedd, in the parishes of Chittlehampton and Chulmleigh, upon trust, to distribute the same to the most necessitous, sick, old, and impotent people in the said town.

The lands charged with this rent-charge, are now the property of Lord Rolle, whose steward, after deducting £2 13*s*. 4*d*. for land tax, pays annually to the mayor of Barnstaple for the time being £17 6*s*. 8*d*. in respect thereof. [F.]

The sum is united with the rents arising from Skinner's gift and Cornish's gift, and forms one fund, the application of which will be stated in the account hereinafter given of the last mentioned charity.

SKINNER'S GIFT.

By indenture, bearing date 30th April, 1719, between Bartholomew Wakeman, son and heir and also executor of William Wakeman, deceased, of the one part; and Edward Fairchild, mayor, Robert Nicholls and John Marshall, aldermen, and twelve others, capital burgesses of the borough and parish of Barnstaple, of the other part; reciting, that Ephraim Skinner, of London, barber chirurgeon, by his will, bearing date 27th December, 1677, gave, in trust, to his brother-in-law, William Wakeman, of Barnstaple, the place of his birth, £200, to be invested by him in land, that so the yearly profits thereof should go to such poor of the said town that should not be already pensioners, as his said brother, whilst alive, should think fit, and after his death, as he should appoint; and reciting, that the said William Wakeman, in pursuance of the said trust, had laid out the said £200, in the purchase of the fee-simple of the lands thereinafter mentioned, which were conveyed to him and his heirs, by indenture of feoffment, bearing date 27th November, 1678; and reciting that the said William Wakeman did not, by his last will, or otherwise, appoint how and amongst whom the said yearly profits should be distributed after his death; the said Bartholomew Wakeman, for the better manifestation of the said trust, granted to the parties of the second part, and their heirs, three closes of land, containing by estimation, six acres, or thereabouts, situate in the said parish of Barnstaple, commonly called Dobbings, or Tracy's grounds, being the lands

so granted by the said indenture of feoffment, as aforesaid, on trust, for the poor of the said parish of Barnstaple, not being pensioners, the yearly profits thereof, for ever, to be distributed amongst them, as the mayor, aldermen, and capital burgesses of the said borough and parish, for the time being, together with the said Bartholomew Wakeman, should appoint, such distribution to be made in such a manner, that the will of the said benefactor might be with the greatest exactness fulfilled.

We have not found any subsequent trust deed of this property, but the leases of it have of late years been granted by the corporation.

The above-mentioned three closes of land, contain, by admeasurement, 7 A. 29 P. and are now in the occupation of Mr. Harry Lewthy, under a lease granted by public auction for 14 years from Lady-day 1815, determinable at the end of the first seven or eleven years, at a clear yearly rent of £30, which is considered to be the full value of the premises. The application of this rent will be stated in the account of the following gift of Richard Cornish.

CORNISH'S GIFT.

Richard Cornish, by his will, bearing date 5th August, 1709, reciting that he was possessed of a close of land called Withy Close, situate in Barnstaple, for a long term of years, gave the same, after the deaths of his wife and brother, to the mayor and aldermen of the

borough and parish of Barnstaple for the time being, for the poor of the said parish, the said close to be yearly set at rent by the mayor and aldermen, and the rent to be by them yearly, on the 25th December, distributed amongst the said poor, in such shares and proportions as by the said mayor and aldermen should be thought fit, they having respect to the most necessitous poor.

Withey Close consists of 2A. 1R. 21P. and is now in the occupation of Dr. Morgan, under a lease from the corporation, granted by public auction, for seven years from Lady-day 1819, at the clear yearly rent of £16, which is considered to be a very good rent. The previous rent was £7 10s. per annum, subject to deductions for rates and taxes.

The annual income arising from this and the two preceding gifts, is united into one fund; until the year 1817, the amount thereof, either in money or in articles of clothing, was distributed, one moiety by the mayor, and one-fourth part by each of the two aldermen of the borough, at their respective houses, to such objects as they thought proper, and no account of the application of these gifts was preserved; but in that year, during the mayoralty of Mr. Edward Richard Roberts, an improved mode of distribution was introduced. Articles of clothing are now provided and given away, together with small donations of money, proportioned to the numbers in each family, by the mayor and aldermen for the time being, amongst the poor, who attend at a public meeting held shortly after Christmas, of which notice is given by the town

crier; and an account is kept under the direction of the mayor, of the receipt and expenditure of these gifts, with lists of the persons receiving them. From the year 1820, a book has been appropriated exclusively to the purpose of recording the application of the charities under the management of the corporation.

The income and expenditure of these donations for the year 1821, was as follows;—

	£	s.	d.
From Beaple's gift	17	6	8
Rent of Facey's ground (Skinner's gift)	30	0	0
Produce of a tree cut on Facey's ground	2	10	0
Rent of Withy Close (Cornish's gift)	16	0	0
	£65	16	8

Distributed at the Guildhall in March 1822 (a delay having taken place in such distribution, in consequence of a part of the rents not having been received at the usual time) in articles of clothing; viz. 47 shirts, 58 shifts, 34 petticoats, 19 pair of stockings, 64 aprons, and 59 handkerchiefs	34	15	4
Distributed in money	18	18	6
Receipt stamps	0	1	6
Expense of rebuilding a linhay which had been blown down on Facey's ground	12	1	5
	65	16	9

This distribution was extended to between four and five hundred persons.

All the poor inhabiting in the town of Barnstaple, whether settled parishioners or not, are allowed to

partake of these donations. It is to be observed, that the income arising from Skinner's gift, was directed by the donor to be confined to persons not being pensioners. No part of this fund has been exclusively disposed of to persons not having parochial relief, but it is stated, that about one half of those who partake of the distribution, are not in the receipt of such relief.

JEFFERY'S GIFT.

Roger Jeffery, of Barnstaple, apothecary, by will, dated 19th December 1681, and proved in the Archdeaconry Court, at Barnstaple, gave to twelve poor decayed housekeepers, 5*s*. a piece, to be paid to them yearly for ever on 25th January, being his birth-day, 30*s*. thereof to be paid by them yearly, as aforesaid, by his son-in-law Richard Matthews, his heirs and assigns, for ever, which said 30*s*. he had reserved to him, his heirs and assigns, for ever, out of his lands in Bickington, which he had formerly purchased of one Mountjoy, which he desired, ordered and ordained the mayor and aldermen of the borough and parish of Barnstaple, for the time being, after his decease, to receive of the said Richard Matthews, his heirs and assigns, for ever, and the same to distribute and pay over, yearly, to the said poor housekeepers; and the other 30*s*. to be paid to the said poor housekeepers also, by the mayor and aldermen of Barnstaple aforesaid, and their successors, which said 30*s*. last mentioned should arise out of the interest of £25 which he did thereby

give and bequeath to the mayor and aldermen of the said borough, for the time being, and their successors for ever, to be paid to them by his executor, Joseph Fraine, within one year next after his decease, to be put out by them at interest into the hands of three sufficient persons, and to be distributed yearly.

A tablet in Barnstaple church, records the gift of Roger Jeffery, as being 30*s*. a year (instead of £3 as mentioned in the will) for poor decayed housekeepers. The old book of mayors' accounts, does not contain those of any year between the date of this gift and the year 1706, and we have not been able to find any trace of the receipt of the above-mentioned sum of £25 by the corporation, or of the payment of any interest by that body in respect thereof.

The annuity of 30*s*. is received from the agent of Mr. —— Yeo, of Clifton, as being the owner of the lands charged therewith, in the hamlet of Bickington, which is in the parish of Fremington, and it is distributed by the mayor for the time being, in small sums amongst poor housekeepers.

It appears from the book in which the account of the corporation charities is now kept, that in 1820, it was thus given to two poor men and four widows, in sums of 5*s*. each, and that in 1821, it was given to a larger number of persons, in sums varying from 5*s*. to 2*s*.

DELBRIDGE'S GIFT.

John Delbridge, by deed, bearing date 25th December, 1632, (as appears from the before mentioned

old book of mayors' accounts,) granted to the mayor, aldermen and burgesses of Barnstaple, and their successors, an annuity of 44*s*. issuing out of a tenement situate at the higher end of Crock [Cross] street, at the corner of the street next the High Cross, and he appointed the said annuity to be disposed of as follows:—20*s*. thereof to be distributed by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor yearly, on the 14th December, unto twenty such poor families in Barnstaple, to each family, 12d, as the mayor and aldermen, or two of them together, with the churchwardens, should, by writing under their hands nominate; and 20*s*. more thereof to be distributed in like manner by such proportion and to such persons, upon the 2d day of May yearly; and 2*s*, of the said annuity to be yearly bestowed by the churchwardens, in the cleansing and reparation of the tomb of his daughter, Mary Markwell; and the other 2*s*. residue of the said annuity, to be given to the overseers of the poor, for their pains in distributing the said annuity; which grant contained a proviso, that if the mayor, &c. should neglect to collect the said annuity by the space of two years, or should not distribute the same, nor cause the said tomb to be repaired, nor should tell the overseers to account for the same, the grant of the said annuity should be void.

This annuity is not now received, and we have not been able to obtain any farther information relating to it, except that in the returns made to Parliament in 1786, it is stated that the gift had lapsed by the tenor of the deed. It is probable that at some former period, the owner of the property charged therewith, availed

himself of some neglect on the part of the corporation, in the collection or disposal of the annuity, to avoid the deed under the proviso contained in it.

OLIVEAN'S GIFT.

Stephen Olivean, by his will, bearing date 2d May, 1668, gave to the mayor and aldermen of the town of Barnstaple, and to the mayor and aldermen of the town of Bideford, respectively, and their respective successors, two yearly rent charges of £5 each, to be issuing out of two messuages and tenements, with the appurtenances, in Saint Luce's-lane, in the parish of St. John's Bow, Exeter, then in the possession of John Taylor, and others, which he had purchased of John Dotton, to be employed by them towards the schooling of poor children, born within the said towns respectively. He also gave to the mayor and aldermen of Plymouth, and to the churchwardens and overseers of the parish of Northam, respectively, two yearly rent-charges of £5 4*s*. each, for a weekly distribution of 2*s*. worth of bread in each of those places, to be issuing out of the same premises.

We are informed, that Saint Luce's-lane, Exeter, is now called Friernhay-lane, but we have not met with any evidence tending to identify the property charged with these rent-charges, nor have we been able to find in any of the places to which they were given, any trace of their having been received. The gifts to Barnstaple and Bideford, are mentioned in lists of

charities upon tablets, in the respective churches of those towns, the donor being called in the former, Stephen Oliphan, and in the latter, Stephen Oliver. The governors of St. John's hospital in Exeter, are in possession of a house in Fore-street, in that city, and in the parish of St. John's Bow, given to them by the will of the said Stephen Olivean.

MAYNE'S GIFT.

A gift of £200 from John Mayne, in 1680, to each of the towns of Dartmouth, Barnstaple, and Bideford, provided that they should, within four years after his death, raise in each of those places £600 or £700; the sums so given by him, and the sums so to be raised, to be employed in erecting of schools in the said towns respectively, was mentioned in a former Report, in the account of the charities of Dartmouth.

We find no trace of this donation having been received in either of these places, and think it probable, that the condition imposed by the donor, was not complied with.

MONIES GIVEN TO BE LENT.

It appears from the old book of mayors' account that the following sums were given by various donors previously to the year 1633, to be lent out to the poor;—

	£	s.	d.
To be raised out of the houses in Boutport-street, given by Robert Appley . . .	100	0	0
G. Duke	10	0	0
R. Beaple	20	0	0
Dorothy Palmer . .	6	13	4
W. Gray	30	0	0
J. Ayres	100	0	0
L. Smyth . . . . ,	12	0	0
J. Beaple	20	0	0
T. Berryman . . .	100	0	0
N. Teakle	100	0	0
Hugh Atwell . . .	3	0	0
T. Wescombe . . .	2	10	0
Denys Westlade . .	1	0	0
Hugh Stevens . . .	6	13	4
T. Westlake	40	0	0
J. Stanbury	10	0	0

And that in 1633, the sum of £59 16*s.* 8*d.* was paid by the corporation, to make good deficiencies in these monies. [G.]

It also appears from an entry in the same book, in 1634, that the mayor, aldermen, and common council of this town, observing, that the poorer sort were not able to find security for loans out of the monies given to be lent to poor tradesmen, especially poor weavers and tuckers, but by leaving the money in the hands of their sureties, whereby little or no profit grew to the said poor; and being desirous that the poor should have some benefit of the said money, thought fit to lend part of the said money to some of the townsmen, such as by their trading helped and relieved the poorer sort, at six per cent, which profit, at the end of the year,

should be distributed to such poor weavers and tuckers as could not find security, nor employ the money to their profit. They therefore lent four sums of £50 each, and one sum of £25 to different persons, at 6 per cent., the interest of which was distributed to the poor in 1634, in sums varying from £1 to 2*s*. 6*d*.; at the same time a part of the said monies, amounting to £326 appears to have been in the hands of several persons, on bond, in sums of £5 and under.

In 1634, Laurence Gibbons gave £20 to be paid to the common council of this town, and employed by them for the benefit of poor tradesmen, free of the town. In 1635, Richard Castleman gave £50 to be paid to the aldermen, and lent out by them as they should think fit, whereby the revenues thereof might be for ever continued for the use of the poor, once a year to be distributed amongst them that should stand in most need. In 1650, James Walsh gave £20 to be put out and employed for the benefit of the poor of this town, for ever.

It appears from the same book, that as late as the year 1671, interest was received for monies lent, called the Poor's Stock, by the mayor, for the time being, and distributed to the poor, subsequently to which, we have not been able to find any trace of these monies.

APPLEY'S GIFT.

Robert Appley, (whose gift to the almshouse, now called Paige's almshouse, has been already mentioned)

by his will, bearing date 7th October, 1594, gave to William Collybeare, then mayor of Barnstaple, and ten others, and their heirs, two messuages and two gardens at Barnstaple, bounded by the town wall on the west, and the street called Boutport on the east, upon trust, to permit the mayor and aldermen of the town of Barnstaple, for the time being, to receive the rents and profits of the said premises, which persons should pay an annuity of £4 5*s*. 2*d*. to his wife for life; and after her death, should take the rents and profits thereof, until there should be a sum of £100 levied thereof, which he directed should be lent forth without interest, from time to time, for ever, to young householders who would give good surety unto the said mayor and aldermen, for the time being, for the repayment thereof, by such portions and sums, and for such terms, as by the said mayor and aldermen, and by the common council of the said town, for the time being, should be thought meet; and after the said sum of £100 should be levied as aforesaid, he directed that all the rents, fines, and profits, that should from thenceforth arise from the said premises, should be by the said mayor and aldermen received, and by them disposed to the relief, behoof and benefit of poor people inhabiting within the borough of Barnstaple, from time to time, for ever.

One of these houses in Boutport street, is now held by Mary Fisher, under a lease granted by the corporation, bearing date 31st May, 1800, for 60 years from the ensuing Midsummer, to William Fisher, at a clear rent of £5 5*s*. per annum. It appears, to

have been previously let for a similar term, at the rent of £2 per annum. The house has been re-built since the existing lease was granted, and is estimated to be worth about £14 per annum, clear rent.

The other house is now held by the Rev. Henry Nicholls, under a lease, bearing date 16th June, 1806, granted by the corporation to Samuel Bremridge, the elder, whose daughter Mr. Nicholls married, for 60 years, from the ensuing Midsummer, at the clear yearly rent of £2 10*s*. in consideration of a surrender of a lease for a similar term, commencing in 1770, at the rent of £2 per annum. This house was improved and partly re-built by Mr. Bremridge, after the existing lease was granted. It is estimated to be worth about £15 per annum, clear rent. The addition to the rent of 10*s*. per annum, appears to have been a very small consideration for the extension of the lessee's interest in this house. [H.]

The only reason assigned for the corporation having granted leases for terms of so long duration, is, that this was till lately the usual mode of leasing the premises in Barnstaple belonging to that body.

The sum of £100 directed by Mr. Appley's will to be raised out of these premises, given by him, appears in the before-mentioned list, dated in 1633, of monies given to be lent to the poor of Barnstaple; but we find no subsequent trace of it.

The rents of these houses, together with those of the lands in the parish of Pilton, given by Adam Lugg, and the annuity of 40*s*. given by Richard Ferris, senior, as hereinafter stated, have been for a great number of

years received by the overseers of the poor of this parish, and carried to their general account, in aid of the poor's rates. The earliest overseers account book produced to us, commences in 1725, at which time, the income of these gifts was thus disposed of, and the application of them may probably have been the same at a much earlier period.

As this mode of disposing of the rents, in aid of those who are bound by the law to contribute to the support of the poor, rather than for the benefit of the poor people themselves, appeared to us a complete deviation from the intentions of these benefactors; a meeting of the parishioners of Barnstaple was at our suggestion held, on the 7th of October, 1822, for the purpose of taking into consideration the application of these gifts, at which it was resolved :—1st. That the receipt and distribution of the charities of Robert Appley, and Richard Ferris, senior, should for the future be placed in the hands of the mayor and corporation, according to the wills of the donors; and 2dly, That the receipt and distribution of the charity of Adam Lugg, should for the future, be committed to the mayor and corporation, on condition, that the minister and churchwardens should be allowed to be present at such distribution.

It only remains, therefore, for the persons entrusted with the distribution of these gifts, to dispose of them annually for the benefit of the poor, in such manner as shall most fully carry into effect the charitable intentions of the donors.

LUGG'S GIFT.

Adam Lugg, by his will, bearing date 3rd January, 1622, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, gave to the poor of the town of Barnstaple, £100 to be bestowed by his executors and overseers, to remain for ever to the use of the poor of the said town.

By indenture, bearing date 23d August, 1632, between William Palmer, of the one part, and Richard Medford and Gilbert Paige and George Lugg, executor of the will of the said Adam Lugg, of the other part; reciting, that George Peard esq. being possessed of a messuage or tenement, and 14 acres of land, in the parish of Pilton, whereof the closes thereinafter mentioned were lately parcel, for the term of 80 years commencing from the 10th of July, 7th Charles 1st; and being likewise interested in the said tenement and 14 acres of land, for the term of 2,000 years, to commence from the 26th of June, 1710, had, by two several indentures, bearing date 10th August, 8th Charles 1st, assigned to the said William Palmer, then mayor of Barnstaple, his executors, &c. a marsh, containing two acres; a close called the Shovell, containing one acre; a close called Eastman's ground, containing three acres; and another close, containing two acres, parcel of the said premises in the parish of Pilton, for the residue of the said term of 80 years, and for the said term of 2,000 years; the said William Palmer thereby published and declared, that the said two several terms were purchased by the said George Lugg, for the use, benefit and profit of the poor of the inha-

bitants of the borough and parish of Barnstaple, according to the will of the said Adam Lugg; and that the rents of the before-mentioned premises, ought to be employed for the benefit and relief of the poor of the said borough and parish accordingly.

The said William Palmer, by indenture, bearing date 20th July, 1648, for the continuance of the trusts for the poor of the said borough and parish of Barnstaple, and the performance of the charitable intentions of the said Adam Lugg, assigned the above-mentioned premises to Richard Harris, then mayor of Barnstaple, and five others, merchants, of the same place; and a subsequent trust deed of the premises, was made by the surviving trustee in 1667, to William Westcombe, mayor, Nicholas Dennys, deputy recorder, George Rooke, alderman, Thomas Matthews, and nine others, capital burgesses, and John Stevens, town clerk of Barnstaple.

We have not been able to find any trust deeds of these lands subsequent to this period, and leases of them have of late years been granted by the churchwardens and overseers.

The above-mentioned property consists of four fields:—

		A.	R.	P.	
1	Beaple's Close	3	1	0	In the occupation of John Andrew, under an agreement for a lease for 14 years, from Lady-day 1821, determinable at the end of 7 or 14 years, at the yearly rent of 14l. 5s.
2	Lark Lees	2	3	0	
3	Willow Plot	0	3	26	In the occupation of John Folland, under an agreement for a similar term, from the same period, at the yearly rent of 10l. 15s.
4	The Marsh	1	2	20	
		8	0	6	

These lettings were by public auction; but the tenants had not at the time of our investigation executed the leases, and the rents being considered too high, some of the parishioners had been appointed to make an arrangement with the tenants, for lowering them to a fair amount.

An entry in the said old book of mayor's accounts, states, that the £100 given by Adam Lugg, not being sufficient for the purchase of the said lands at Pilton, the town disbursed £13 16*s*. 6*d*. towards the purchase, which, in 1634, was wholly repaid; and that from thenceforward the whole profits of the land were to be employed for the use of the poor, by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor, and to be by them, from year to year, accounted for. It is probable, therefore, that the rents may have been ever since that time carried to the overseers' general account.

We have stated in the account of Appley's gift, the resolution which has been adopted by the parishioners, for the future distribution of the rents of this property, by the mayor and corporation, in the presence of the minister and churchwardens, in consequence of which, it is to be hoped, that the poor people of Barnstaple, the object of this donor's bounty, will henceforward receive the benefits which he intended for them.

RICHARD FERRIS, SENIOR'S, GIFT.

Richard Ferris, senior, by his will, bearing date 27th June, 1622, gave to the mayor, aldermen, and

burgesses of Barnstaple, 40*s*. yearly, for the use and benefit of the poor of that parish, to be paid out of a messuage and garden in Holland-street, Barnstaple.

The statement of this will is taken from a recital in a conveyance of this house, dated 31st May, 1654, from William Westcombe and Mary his wife, to Mary Thorne, whereby the said Mary Thorne covenanted to pay the said annuity of 40*s*. according to the effect of the will of the said Richard Ferris.

The annual sum of 40*s*. is now paid by Mrs. Dene, as the owner of the house charged therewith.

The manner in which this rent-charge has been hitherto employed, and its intended application for the future, have been already noticed in the above account of Appley's gift.

SIR JOHN ACLAND'S GIFT.

The particulars of Sir John Acland's gift in 1616, to this borough (amongst other places,) of an annuity of 52*s*. directed to be paid to the mayor for the time being, for providing, weekly, 13 penny loaves, to be distributed to 13 of the poorest sort of people of the borough, appointed by the mayor and four of the most ancient masters of the borough, have been already stated in a former Report, in the account of the charities of the city of Exeter. [J.]

The annual sum of £2 12*s*. is received by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of Barnstaple, from the chamber of Exeter. No weekly distribution

of bread takes place, in the manner prescribed by the donor; but the whole sum, together with 20*s*, arising from Horsham's gift, and 12*s*. arising from Webber's gift, hereinafter mentioned, is laid out annually, shortly after Christmas, in the purchase of penny and two-penny loaves, which are distributed by the church-wardens and overseers, amongst the poor inhabitants of Barnstaple, whether receiving parochial relief or not.

HORSHAM'S GIFT.

Hugh Horsham, by his will, bearing date 3d January, 1653, as appears from the before-mentioned old book of mayor's accounts, gave to the poor of the town of Barnstaple, £20, to remain for ever, the interest and benefit thereof to be bestowed in bread, and distributed to the poor of the said town, every Candlemas eve, for ever.

The annual sum of 20*s*. which is understood to be the interest of this sum of £20, is paid by the corporation of Barnstaple to the churchwardens and overseers, and by them disposed of in the manner above stated, in the account of Sir John Acland's gift.

WEBBER'S GIFT.

Thomas Webber, by his will, bearing date 20th May, 1696, gave to the poor of Barnstaple, 12*s*. per annum, in bread, to be distributed among them on St.

Thomas's day, for ever, and thereby charged three tenements, and a garden thereto adjoining, situate in Pilton, with the payment thereof.

This statement of the will is taken from a recital in a conveyance of these premises, dated in 1728, from Humphry Dene and Arthur Tucker, to Alexander Beare.

Miss Reed, as the owner of a garden in Pilton, called Yeolands, pays this annuity to the churchwardens and overseers of Barnstaple, by whom it is disposed of, in the manner above stated, in the account of Sir John Acland's gift.

WESTLAKE'S GIFT.

Katherine Westlake, of Barnstaple, widow, by her will, bearing date 19th April, 1636, gave to her executors £300, to the intent that they should put forth the same into some good hands for profit, and that the increase and profit thereof should, yearly, be distributed amongst the poor artificers of the town of Barnstaple, according to the discretion of her said executors; the said gift to continue for ever. And she directed, that when three of her executors should be dead, the two survivors should associate to themselves three others, inhabitants of the said town, and so from time to time for ever, as often as by death they should be reduced to two, having regard to those of the common council of the said town, and likewise to those of her kindred; which persons should have the same

powers, as if they had been appointed by her will, to execute all things, as her executors might do. She also gave to the executors £100, to the intent that they should, yearly, distribute the profit thereof amongst such poor young men and women, within the said town of Barnstaple, as should be newly come out of their apprenticeship, towards the setting up of their trade and better livelihood; and she appointed Richard Beaple, William Parnell, George Peard, Richard Medford, and Richard Ferris, to be her executors.

By a decree of commissioners of charitable uses, bearing date 17th January, 1667, it was (amongst other things) directed, that the two surviving trustees of this gift should, within three weeks after they should be reduced to that number, by writing, under their hands and seals, associate to themselves three other persons to act in the management of the trusts; that no trustee should keep in his hands any of the money belonging to the said trust on interest; that once in every year due distribution should be made of the profit of the said money; and that the trustees, once in every year, should render an account to the mayor and aldermen of Barnstaple, for the time being, of their acting in the said trust. [K.]

It appears, from the accounts of this charity, that the sum of £400 given by Mrs. Westlake, was in 1749 and 1750, (previously to which time it had been lent on bond,) laid out in the purchase of £390 old South Sea Annuities, in which stock it now remains, the yearly dividends being £11 14*s*.

The last deed for appointing new trustees is dated in 1788, of whom Mr. John May, senior, is the only survivor. In 1808, the above-mentioned stock was transferred into the names of the said Mr. John May, senior, Mr. John May, junior, Mr. Edward Richard [Richards] Roberts, and Mr. Henry Drake, and is now standing in their names. No appointment of new trustees, under hand and seal, was then made, but at the time of our investigation it was intended that this should be done.

The four trustees of the stock meet annually, when each of them appoints a poor person of Barnstaple, whose apprenticeship has lately expired, to receive 15*s*. making in the whole £3 as the interest of £100 mentioned in the latter clause of Mrs. Westlake's will. The persons receiving these sums sign receipts for them in the book relating to the charity. The residue of the dividends, being £8 14*s*. is distributed about Christmas amongst poor artificers of the town, in small sums, varying from 1*s*. to 2*s*. 6*d*. by two of the trustees, who go from house to house, selecting those whom they consider the most proper objects of the charity. At Christmas 1821, the sum of £7 1*s*. only was thus given, £1 13*s*. being reserved towards the expense of the proposed new trust deed. A list of the persons receiving this part of the gift, with the sum given to each, is entered in the book; but it has not hitherto been usual to render an account to the mayor and aldermen of Barnstaple, as directed by the above-mentioned decree.

BARON'S GIFT.

George Baron, by indenture, bearing date 20th January, 1681, granted and assigned to Joseph Fraine, and three others, and their heirs, a yearly rent-charge of £6 issuing out of an estate lying in or called by the name of Brinsworthy, in the parish of Frenrington, upon trust, that they should at all times thereafter, upon receipt of this rent-charge, or within ten days at the farthest, distribute the same amongst the most necessitous persons, baize-makers, and their widows, inhabiting within the town of Barnstaple, or the limits or precincts thereof, in such proportions as the trustees, in their discretion, should think fit, respect being had to the necessities of the receivers thereof. And it was declared, that when the trustees should be reduced to two, the survivors should appoint two others.

This statement is taken from a recital in the last deed, dated in 1788, for appointing new trustees, of whom Mr. John May, senior, is the survivor.

The gentlemen in whose names the stock held under Mrs. Westlake's gift is now invested, also act as trustees of this gift, and at the time of our investigation it was intended that they should be appointed trustees thereof by deed.

The annuity of £6 is received from the Reverend Samuel May, the owner of the property charged therewith, and is distributed publicly in the Guildhall, one or two days before Christmas, amongst poor weavers of coarse woollen cloths, and their widows, appointed by the trustees, in small sums, varying from

1*s*. to 4*s*. according to their necessities. A list is kept of the persons receiving the donation, who usually continue to have the benefit of it during their lives, if they conduct themselves well, and reside in the town of Barnstaple. The manufacture of baize has nearly ceased in this town, and this charity has for many years been extended to the description of persons to whom it is now given.

At Christmas 1820, the distribution was made to 62 persons, and at Christmas 1821, to 56 persons, the sum of £1 7*s*. having been in the latter year reserved towards the expense of the proposed new trust deed.

RICHARD FERRIS'S GIFT.

Richard Ferris, of Barnstaple, by his will, bearing date 19th June, 1646, gave to John Downe, Nicholas Dennys, and three others, whom he appointed his executors, and their heirs, his manor, messuages, lands and tenements, called Middleton, situate in the parish of Parracombe, upon trust, to take the rents and profits thereof, and pay them to his brother, John Ferris, for his life; and after his brother's decease, the testator directed that there should be yearly, for ever, raised out of the issues and profits of the said manor and premises, the sum of £10 which should be paid by his executors, yearly, to such able schoolmaster as should be appointed by the mayor and aldermen, to teach children in the town of Barnstaple. And he further directed, that £20 more of the yearly rents and

profits of the said manor and premises, after the death of his said brother, should be, from time to time, yearly raised by his executors, and by them employed, for ever, towards the binding forth of such poor children of the said town of Barnstaple, apprentices, as the parents of them should not be of ability to prefer. And he gave the rents and profits of the said manor and premises (the said two annuities excepted) to his wife and her heirs, for ever.

The manor and estate, called Middleton, have been conveyed, from time to time, to trustees, upon the trusts of Mr. Ferris's will. The last trust deed is dated in 1815, under which seven trustees are now living. The two annuities of £10 and £20 are received by Mr. Henry Drake, town clerk of Barnstaple, as the agent of the trustees, from Mr. William Dovell, who is at present in the receipt of the rents and profits of the premises.

The application of the former annuity will be stated in the account of the grammar-school, in a subsequent part of this Report. The latter is applied in apprenticeing poor children of parishioners of Barnstaple, a preference being given to natives of the town. The rent is usually received about Midsummer, and shortly afterwards notice is given of a day on which persons are to make applications, who wish to have their children apprenticed. On that day, after an investigation of the claims of the applicants, and the fitness of the proposed masters or mistresses, by the Reverend William Spurway, one of the trustees, who has had of late years the principal management of the charity,

such children as are considered by him proper objects are ordered to be apprenticed, a premium of £4 being given with each boy, and of £2 with each girl. A book is kept, containing an account of the receipt and expenditure of the charity, in which are entered the names of the children, and of the persons to whom they are apprenticed.

In 1812, the above-mentioned annuities were exonerated from land tax, which had been previously deducted out of them. In the same year, a sum of £6 was given by James Hammett, esquire, in aid of this charity, which was carried to the general account.

If there are not a sufficient number of applicants for the benefit of the charity, the balance is carried to the next year's account. On the account, as settled for the year 1821, the balance remaining in Mr. H. Drake's hands was £1 15*s*. 2*d*. No charge is made by that gentleman, for keeping the accounts.

PHILLIPS'S GIFT.

It is stated in an inscription upon a tablet in the church, that John Phillips, who died in 1734, gave £100 to be laid out in the [some] purchase, for the use of the poor in Litchdon almshouse, the profits thereof to be paid at Christmas, 10*s*. thereof to the reader; £200 more to be laid out in some purchase, for the use of the charity school; and 40*s*. a year, for ever, to the poor in the almshouses in the alms-lane and the court thereof, equally; and directed that his executor,

Mr. Henry Beavis, and his assigns, should be trustees of his said legacies and purchases.

The application of the said £100 and £200 will be found in other parts of this report.

It is further stated, in the said inscription, that £40 the computed value of the said legacy of 40*s*. a year, together with £24 the produce thereof, was laid out in the purchase of the clear rent-charge of 50*s*. to be issuing out of three closes of land at Maidenford, in the parish of Barnstaple, called Fox's Park, by half-yearly payments at Midsummer and Christmas.

The present owner of Fox's Park, Mr. —— Pomeroy, pays 25*s*. at Midsummer, and 25*s*. at Christmas, to one of the poor women in Paige's almshouse, who distributes the same, together with 1*s*. added to each half yearly payment, by Colonel Beavis, the son of Mr. Henry Beavis, and the present trustee of this gift, amongst 26 poor almspeople; viz. 16 in Horwood's almshouse, 8 in Paige's almshouse, and 2 in Harris's almshouse, 1*s*. to each.

DRAKE'S GIFT.

Elizabeth Drake, by her will, bearing date 18th March, 1755, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, devised a dwelling-house, in Joy-Street, Barnstaple, with the brewing furnace, utensils, and household furniture, let therewith to John Scott, Philip Furze, John Rogers, and James Hiern, for all the term and estate she should have therein at her death, upon

trust, after the decease of her husband, Henry Drake, to let the premises at a yearly rent, and to pay out of the yearly rent to the churchwardens of Barnstaple, 2*s*. 6*d*. and to the sexton thereof, 2*s*. 6*d* until her sepulchre should be opened, and to distribute the residue of the rents and profits, one half amongst such of the poor of the parish of Barnstaple, and the other half amongst such of the poor of the parish of Pilton, as they should think fit, preferring such poor persons of each parish as might be related to her then husband, or her former husband, Walter Tucker, deceased, on the 28th of February in every year, during her said term and interest in the premises, with a power from time to time, when any one of the trustees should die, for the survivors to add to themselves others, not exceeding three at one time.

The gift of this house by will for charitable purposes, was void by the statute of mortmain, 9 Geo. 2. and no claim to it can be established by the objects of the bounty of the testatrix. Mr. Philip Welsh Hiern, of Barnstaple, is now in the receipt of the rents and profits of it, and informs us that he makes certain charitable payments in respect thereof, but considers them to be altogether voluntary on his part. [L.]

TIPPETTS'S GIFT.

Henry Gardner Tippetts, by his will, bearing date 14th June, 1795, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, charged a field called Hole Ground, in

the parish of Barnstaple, which he thereby gave to Elizabeth Symes Warmington, and her heirs, with the payment of 40*s*. a year, for ever, to be paid to the poor of Litchdon almshouse, at Christmas, in equal proportions; and with the further payment of 26*s*. a year, for ever, to be paid in like manner among the poor of the Alms-lane, in Barnstaple; and with the further payment of 40*s*. a year, for ever, to be distributed at Christmas in bread, among the poor inhabitants of the borough of Newport, near Barnstaple; and he directed, that the said charities should be publicly distributed by the officiating clergyman of Barnstaple, and by the officiating clergyman of Bishop's Tawton, for the time being.

The field called Hole Ground, is now the property of the Rev. George Tucker, whose tenant, Mr. William Slocombe, pays £1 13*s*. at Michaelmas, and the same sum at Christmas, in each year, to the parish clerk of Barnstaple, who at each of these times distributes the said sums amongst the 60 almspeople, to each 6*d*. viz. 40 in Penrose's almshouse, 16 in Horwood's almshouse, 8 in Paige's almshouse, and 2 in Harris's almshouse. The distribution used to be made by the vicar of Barnstaple, but has been latterly entrusted to the parish clerk. Mr. Slocombe also transmits to the vicar of Bishop's Tawton, £2 at Christmas, for the poor of the borough of Newport, in that parish, the distribution of which will be stated in the account of the charities of that parish.

Various old accounts were produced to us, dated in the early part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, which tend to show, that there existed at that time a company or fellowship of Cordwainer's, in the town of Barnstaple, governed by a master and wardens, in some instances stiled the master and wardens of the occupation of Cordwainers, and in others the master and wardens "of the Trynitie," but no such company is now in existence.

The earliest deed that we have found relating to these lands, bears date 1st April, 1633, whereby, after reciting that Paul Worth, and Thomas Clarke, deceased, by their indenture, bearing date 29th March, 39th Elizabeth, had granted and enfeoffed to George Baker, and Richard Jeffery, together with others deceased, all those messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, and services in Barnstaple, Bideford, Hartland, Newport Bishop, and Pilton, which premises lying in Barnstaple aforesaid, then or lately before, were in the several tenures of Adam Wyatt, John Rowe, and Nicholas Budd; and also, all those messuages, lands, tenements, rents, &c. situate in Barnstaple, Bideford, Hartland, Newport Bishop, and Pilton, which the said Paul Worth, and Thomas Clarke had, by the grant of John Manning, and others, to hold the said premises to the said George Baker, Richard Jeffery and others, and their heirs for ever; the said George Baker and Richard Jeffery, in performance of the trust by the said Paul Worth and Thomas Clarke, in them reposed,

tenement, curtilage and garden, were some time in the occupation of Elizabeth Vaughan, late of Elizabeth Bicknell, and John Bicknell, her father, or one of them, and then of James Hiern, apothecary, together with all other houses, &c. in Barnstaple, Bideford, Hartland, Newport Bishop, and Pilton, mentioned in the original deed of feoffment thereof, made to the said Simon Moule, and others; upon trust, that the rents and profits of all the said premises, should be from time to time, by

No.	PARISH.	LESSEE.	TENEMENTS.
1	Barnstaple	Nicholas Glass, now George Harris.	Two small tenements, with stables and small courtlages, in Anchor-lane, let to under tenants, and a back kitchen, with a laundry over, occupied by the present lessee.
2	Do.	Nicholas Glass, now George Harris.	Part of a shop in High-street, with a passage and staircase behind, and the rooms over the same, occupied by an under tenant of the lessee.
3	Do.	James Hiern, now Philip Welch Hiern.	The southern part of the front of a house in High-street, and all the back part of the same house, together with a garden near the castle, and a shed lately built thereon by the lessee.

The whole of the premises comprised in No. 1, are estimated to be worth about £14 per annum. The premises, No. 2 and 3, are so united with freehold land belonging to the respective lessees, that it is difficult to give an accurate statement of their value.

In 1731, a lease was granted of No. 1, in consideration of a fine of £70 for 60 years from that time. This lease was renewed in 1761, in consideration of a fine of £12 for 30 years, from 1791, and again renewed in 1794, as stated in the rental. In 1758, a lease was granted of No. 2, in consideration of a fine of £3 3s.

Simon Moule, and the said parties of the second part, and the survivors of them, employed to such uses and purposes as the said premises were first given and enfeoffed, with a proviso for the appointment of sixteen new trustees when the number should be reduced to four. Four of the feoffees appointed by this deed are now living.

The present state of this property is shown by the following Rental:—

TERM.	Date of last Renewal.	Fine Paid on last Renewal.	RENT.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
33 years, from 6th April, 1821	17th December, 1794	13 16 0	0 4 0
40 years, from 25th March 1813	29th September, 1798	90 0 0	0 8 0
31 years, from Lady-day, 1816	18th February, 1787	16 0 0	1 0 0
			[M.]

for 60 years from that time, which was renewed in 1798, as stated in the rental. In 1744, a lease was granted of No. 3, for 60 years, to commence in 1756, after the expiration of a term of 99 years, which had been granted in reversion of a previous term of 90 years, commencing in 36 Elizabeth. The rent of No. 1, appears from the old accounts to have been formerly 10*s*. but in the lease of 1731, the rent reserved was the same as at present. The rents of the other premises have been always the same.

The mode that has been adopted of granting leases of these premises for 60 years, and renewing such leases after the expiration of about one half of the term, is stated to have been also customary in letting the houses belonging to the corporation of Barnstaple; but it appears to us to be a disadvantageous mode of leasing the property belonging to a charity, as it is not to be expected that the fines to be obtained for such reversionary leases, will bear an adequate proportion to the actual value of the premises.

This property is subject to two chief rents of *1s.* each to the trustees of Barnstaple bridge, and to those of Bideford bridge, and to a rent to the Castle Court of $2\frac{3}{4}d.$

One of the feoffees acting as treasurer, has received the rents and fines, and made occasional distributions of them. We have examined the accounts from 1761 to the present time, and find that a distribution has taken place after the receipt of each fine, and that there have also been occasional distributions of the rents in the treasurer's hands, in small sums, among poor shoemakers of Barnstaple, and their widows. The last distribution was made in 1820, when the sum of £10 8*s.* $7\frac{1}{2}d.$ arising from the rents for seven years preceding, was thus given away, by Mr. Samuel Bremridge, then treasurer, but since deceased, in sums varying from 1*s.* to 3*s.*; a small balance of 8*s.* 7*d.* remained at the time of our inquiry, in the chest, containing the documents relating to these lands, which is now in the possession of John Roberts, esquire, one of the surviving feoffees.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

FERRIS'S GIFT.

The will of Richard Ferris, bearing date 19th June 1646, has been already stated, by which he gave an annuity of £10 to be paid to such able schoolmaster as should be appointed by the mayor and aldermen of Barnstaple, to teach children in that town.

WRIGHT'S GIFT.

By deed, bearing date 23d August 1760, John Wright, Clerk, A. M. master of the grammar school of Barnstaple, being moved with gratitude, after receiving for nearly 20 years the annuity of £10 given by Richard Ferris to that grammar school, for the benefit of the master thereof, and considering that the said school had the smallest foundation of any grammar school in Devon, gave to the mayor and aldermen of Barnstaple and their successors £100, then placed in four per cent bank annuities, on trust, to place out the said sum from time to time on the best security that could be had, and for the most interest that could be got, and to receive the yearly interest, and pay the same unto the said John Wright, as long as he should continue actual master of the said school, and after his resignation or death, to pay the interest to every succeeding master of the said school for the time being, for his better support and maintenance; and as every preceding master of the said school had been of the degree of master of arts, it was his particular desire,

that in case any future master should be elected to the said school, not of that degree at the time of his election, such person should take the degree of A. M. as soon as conveniently might be after his election; and if at any time thereafter, any of his descendants should happen to stand candidate for the mastership of the said grammar school, it was his desire that he should, *cæteris paribus*, have the preference, on his conforming to the rules and conditions in the said deed expressed; provided, that if it should happen that any future master of the said school should neglect to attend and perform the duty thereof as he ought to do, and such neglect should appear to the mayor and aldermen for the time being, to be wilfully committed, it should be lawful for them (no prejudice being visible) to withhold such yearly interest from such neglectful master, and to keep the same in arrear in their hands, or to add the same to the said principal sum of £100 as should be most beneficial to the next succeeding master.

The above-mentioned £100 is now invested in two deeds poll of the Barnstaple turnpike trust for £50 each, bearing interest at four per cent; the interest thereof, and the annuity of £10 derived from Richard Ferris's gift are paid to the Rev. Henry Nichells, A.M. the present master of the grammar school, who was appointed to that situation by the corporation in 1795. An ancient building in the church-yard is used as a school-room, and is kept in repair by the corporation, who have also voluntarily permitted the present master to reside in a house in Barnstaple, belonging to them,

which was not previously appropriated to that purpose. The present master, in respect of the above mentioned emoluments, instructs one boy free of expense, admitted as a vacancy occurs, by the recommendation in writing of a majority of the members of the corporation. The boy receives a classical education, in common with the other scholars in the school, about 30 in number, principally day boys of the town of Barnstaple.

CHARITY SCHOOL.

This school was established in 1710, and various donations of money and rent-charges have been made to it from time to time, which are recorded in tablets in the church.

In 1746, an estate, called Francis and Bowden, in the parish of Ilfracombe, was purchased and conveyed to trustees for the support of this school, subject to a rent charge of £4 per annum, for the poor almspeople in Penrose's almshouse. The purchase money of this estate was £1,150 the whole of which had arisen from gifts to this school, except £100, which was a legacy of John Phillips, to the said almshouse, and in respect whereof the said rent-charge of £4 per annum was, by the purchase deeds, made payable for ever to trustees, for the benefit of the almspeople. A legacy of £200, given by the said John Phillips to this school, was also included in the said purchase money.

We have not found the original purchase deeds of this estate, but they are recited in the earliest trust

deeds that we have seen, bearing date 9th and 10th November, 1755.

The last trust deeds are dated 19th and 20th September, 1805, under which eight trustees are now living.

The following statement will show the property now enjoyed by this establishment:—

	£	s.	d.
1.—A messuage and farm, called Francis and Bowden, in the parish of Ilfracombe, in the occupation of James Watts, containing by estimation, about 160 acres, under a lease granted by auction by the trustees, for 11 years, from Lady-day, 1815, determinable at the end of seven years, at the yearly rent of £110, reduced 1822, in consequence of the depreciation of the produce of land to	90	0	0
2.—A rent-charge given by the will of Thomas Harris, in 1712, issuing out of a house in High-street, in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Scott, near the school-house.	0	8	0
3.—A rent-charge given by the will of Rebecca Fairchild, in 1714, issuing out of a garden adjoining the school-house, the property of John Caddy.	0	16	0
4.—A rent-charge given by the will of Elizabeth Watson, in 1715, issuing out of a house in High-street, the property of Mr. John Dennis.	1	0	0
5.—A rent-charge given by the will of Ann Carpenter, in 1725, issuing out of the manor of Stanton Fry, near Minehead, the property of John Fownes Luttrell, Esquire	1	0	0

	£	s.	d.
6.—A rent-charge given by Nicholas Dennis, (date unknown), issuing out of a house in High-street, the property of George Northcott	0	4	0
7.—A rent-charge given by a codicil to the will of James Colley, in 1809, issuing out of houses on the Quay, in Barnstaple, called the New Works, during the term which he had therein from the corporation of Barnstaple; (about 34 years of this term are now unexpired.)	2	0	0
8.—A rent-charge given by Philip Bremridge, in 1813, payable out of a house in High-street, the property of Joseph Evans	0	13	4
9.—An annuity, paid by the corporation in lieu of an annual fish dinner which that body was bound to provide for the lord of the Castle Court manor, the said annuity having been voluntarily given to this charity, by the late Sir John Chichester, and the present Sir Arthur Chichester, as stated in the account of Paige's almshouse . . .	1	0	0
10.—£124 Old South Sea Annuities, arising from £100 given by the will of Mrs. Elizabeth Stanbury, after the death of her sister Joan Stanbury, producing dividends amounting annually to .	3	12	6
11.—£470 Old South Sea Annuities, arising from various donations, producing dividends amounting annually to .	14	2	0
12.—£260 2s. 3d. Three per Cent Consols, arising in the same manner, and inclu-			

	£	s.	d.
ding £50 stock, given by the will of James Sciance, in 1815, and £50 stock given by the will of Thomas Sciance, in 1817, producing dividends amounting annually to	10	16	0
Total annual income .	£125	11	10

We have not found any copies or extracts of the instruments by which the above-mentioned rent-charges were given, except of those given by James Colley and Philip Bremridge. In 1803, Edward Paul Pilcher, esquire, gave to this charity one thirty-fifth share of the Barnstaple assembly rooms, which was afterwards sold by the trustees, with Mr. Pilcher's consent, and the produce thereof, being £40, was invested in three per cent consols, and now forms a part of the above-mentioned £260 2*s*. 3*d*. in that stock.

In 1810, timber was cut on the farm at Ilfracombe, and sold for £35 8*s*. which was carried to the general account of the charity.

In addition to the income arising from the gifts above stated, an annual sermon is preached in Barnstaple church, for the benefit of the charity, which usually produces from £25 to £30.

The school-house is situate in High-street, Barnstaple, near [over] the north gate; it was built about 60 years ago, at the expense of the corporation, and is kept in good repair from the funds of the school.

The trustees hold two annual meetings, one in July or August, for the election of boys into the school, and

another in September, when one of the trustees is appointed treasurer for the ensuing year, and the treasurer's accounts for the preceding year are audited. [N.]

Upon this establishment 50 boys, chosen by the trustees from the poor children of Barnstaple, are instructed by a schoolmaster, appointed by them, in reading, writing, and arithmetic. The boys are not admitted into the school until they are eight years of age, or allowed to remain after they are fourteen.

This school is confined to boys only; but the school for girls, hereinafter mentioned, founded by Mrs. Alice Horwood, is under the management of the same trustees; and both boys and girls are completely clothed once a year, and have shoes and stockings twice in the year, from the funds above stated.

A copy of the annual account, as audited, is printed and distributed amongst the inhabitants of Barnstaple.

The following is an abstract of the account for the year ending in September 1821:—

	£	s.	d.
Schoolmaster's salary	40	0	0
Clothing for boys and girls	81	10	0
Repairs of the school house (less than the usual average)	0	13	4
Writing paper for the boys	2	17	0
Printing the annual account, and hymns for the annual sermon	1	5	6
Rent-charge paid out of Francis and Bowdens to Penrose's almshouse, in respect of Phillips's gift	4	0	0
	£130	5	10

The balance on this year's account was £8 12*s*. in favour of the charity, which was paid over to the incoming treasurer.

ALICE HORWOOD'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

Adjoining to Horwood's almshouse, of which an account has already been given, is a house inhabited by a school-mistress. An inscription on the almshouse states, that Alice Horwood, "of her own accord, added the adjoining free-school, and endowed it for 20 poor children for ever, in 1659."

We have not been able to find any document relating to this endowment; it is not mentioned in Mrs. Horwood's deed of 1674, relating to an almshouse, of which an abstract has been already given, nor is it included in the trust deeds relating to the charity school for boys, although the trustees of that establishment have also the management of this charity.

There is a tenement, called Gutterstone, at Newport, in the parish of Bishop's Tawton, the rents of which are received by the mistress of this school. It consists of a house, courtlage, garden, and two closes of land, containing 3A. 30P. now in the occupation of John Davis, under an agreement, made with the trustees of the charity school for boys, for a lease for the term of 11 years, from Lady-day 1720, at the clear yearly rent of £15 10*s*. which appears to be the full value of the premises. The school-mistress, who is appointed by the said trustees, receives this rent, out of which she

keeps in repair the house inhabited by her, and instructs therein, in respect of the emoluments derived from the charity, 20 girls, nominated by the trustees, in reading, sewing and knitting. The girls are admitted into the school at seven years of age, and allowed to remain till fourteen, and are clothed out of the funds of the charity school, as has been already mentioned in the account of that establishment.

NEWCOMMEN'S GIFT.

The particulars of Mrs. Margaret Newcommen's will, dated in 1810, will be stated in the present Report, in the account of the charities of the town of Bideford.

Two annual sums of £4 each are paid by her trustees to two dissenting school-mistresses, of Barnstaple, for teaching poor children of this town to read. [o.]

MARTIN'S GIFT.

It appears from a copy of a terriet of the vicarage of Barnstaple, dated in 1726, that Mrs. Martin, by will, the date of which is not stated, gave to the minister of Barnstaple the sum of £5 yearly, the better to encourage him to the use and exercise of the necessary duty of catechizing of youth in his parish.

This sum is received by the vicar out of an estate called Great Fisherton, in the parish of Bishop's Tawton, now the property of Mrs. Downe.

The present vicar catechizes the children of the charity school twice a year, in the church; and also, occasionally, catechizes the children in a school in this parish, on the Madras system, supported by voluntary contributions.

STANBURY'S GIFT FOR READING PRAYERS.

Joan Stanbury, by her will, bearing date 10th of October, 1772, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, gave to the vicar and mayor for the time being of Barnstaple, and their successors, £500, to be by them placed at interest in the public funds, in their names, on trust, to pay the interest thereof to the minister, who should daily, throughout the year, do the duty of reading prayers, from the liturgy of the church of England, in the parish church of Barnstaple, to the congregation there assembled, by seven o'clock in the morning in the summer, and eight o'clock in the morning in the winter; such minister to be chosen and removed from time to time by a majority of the inhabitants of Barnstaple, of the communion of the church of England, and paying church rates there, at any public meeting held for that purpose, after six days' notice given for such meeting by any ten or more of such inhabitants, in the parish church of Barnstaple; and she directed, that if morning prayers should be neglected to be read, at the stated times aforesaid, or not in a proper manner, for the space of twenty days together, that the interest of the said money, during

the time that morning prayers should be neglected to be read as aforesaid, should, for such neglect, be paid and distributed amongst the poor of Barnstaple, not having parish relief, as the said inhabitants or the major part of them, at any public meeting, after such notice given, should think fit.

This sum of £500 is now invested in £624 0*s.* 6*d.* old South Sea Annuities, in the names of Samuel Bremridge, esquire, and the Reverend J. M. Wade, late vicar of Barnstaple. The Reverend Henry Luxmoore, the present vicar, upon being instituted to this living, about two years since, was also chosen by the parishioners to be the reader under this gift, and now receives the dividends of this stock; morning prayers have been, for several years, read only once in twenty days, with a view to prevent the forfeiture of the gift. It is evident, therefore, that the intentions of the testatrix are not fulfilled. But the Reverend Henry Nicholls, late curate of this parish, and reader, chosen under this gift, at the request of the parishioners, performed divine service, a third time, on the Sunday evenings, during the winter months, which he considered himself as doing in lieu of reading morning prayers, as directed by Mrs. Stanbury's will. The present vicar has also, during his incumbency, performed such third service during the winter months, but states, that he does not consider himself bound to continue it. [P.]

APPENDIX TO CHAPTER II.

"It is absolutely necessary that it should be perfectly understood that "charity estates all over the kingdom, are dealt with in a manner most grossly "improvident, amounting to the most direct breach of trust."

Lord Chancellor Eldon.

Since the Commissioners visited Barnstaple, (in the autumn of 1822,) many new leases have been granted of lands belonging to the different Charities; notices of these, with such other information as I have been enabled to procure, and a few observations arising out of the subject-matter of the report, will be found in the following pages.

Wherever the present yearly value of property held on *long leases at low rents*, is given, it is done with fidelity and impartiality, and with the sole view of shewing how much the parties for whose benefit the institutions were set on foot, are suffering by the injudicious "mode" of leasing charity lands, &c. which has prevailed here; and which has had the effect of adding to the superfluities of the rich, that which was *designed to administer to the necessities of the poor*.

A system so decidedly injurious to the interests of those for whose *sole benefit* the various charitable institutions were founded, will not, it is hoped, be again resorted to, since, under *any circumstances*, to lease a property, the yearly proceeds of which appertain to any class of persons, but more especially the poor, at a rate below its *present value*, is to do an act of injustice to the existing proprietors of such property. Charity pensioners have but a life-interest in the lands or monies by which they are benefited, and being necessarily excluded from any share in the management of

their own funds, it behoves those to whom that management is deputed, (next to a scrupulous regard to the directions and INTENTIONS of the Donor,) to have an especial eye to the interest of the *living claimants on his bounty*. Should the question possibly arise how this object can be best effected, a trustee has only to ask himself this question; had I a life-interest in this property, whilst I performed my duty in preserving it uninjured, should I not also look well to my own interest, and reap all possible advantage from it?

No defence, it is presumed, will be attempted in favour of *over-leasing* and *under-letting* lands belonging to the Poor, except in the case of a building lease; but a slight examination will shew even this ground to be untenable. Take as an example the house now held by Mr. Fisher, (see Appley's gift, page 123) which produces £5 5*s.* per annum to the poor; had the premises been let, when the former lease expired, at their marketable value, they would have *certainly* produced £15, being a surplus of £9 15*s.* above the present rent. Now taking the period during which Paupers usually receive relief to average fifteen years, four generations will be deprived of an annual income of £9 15*s.* arising, (or which ought to arise *to them*) out of an estate, their right to *all* the rents and *profits* of which for the time being cannot be disputed! and why? because their successors in the fifth and succeeding generations may *possibly* benefit by it; I have said "*possibly*," because, to say nothing of numerous other contingencies, we have no security that the old system may not again prevail, and the poor continue to be deprived of their just rights to an indefinite period.

It is not intended by the motto affixed to this article, to insinuate that any of the charity property belonging to this town, is at present managed otherwise than it should be; but that this has heretofore been the case, is too palpable either to be concealed or denied.

One remark more is perhaps needful here.

The statements I have made of the present value of the different properties, will be found in several instances to be much at variance with the valuations given in the Report; I may claim exemption from the charge of personality, in having furnished more correct estimates than those previously given, when I say that I am quite ignorant from whom the Commissioners obtained their information. I am aware that the personal examinations taken before these gentlemen are in print, but I have not seen the publication, neither have I been informed of any one individual mentioned in it as having been examined touching the Barnstaple Charities.

[A.] *Litchdon Almshouse, p. 97.*

3.* This estate, as I am informed by one of the trustees, has been let for a fresh term, at a reduction of more than twenty-five per cent. on the former rent. The brother of the late lessee is the present occupier. It's being an "undivided moiety" is doubtless a great drawback on the value of the property, as fair competition amongst bidders for a lease of premises thus circumstanced, cannot be looked for.

4. It is difficult to conceive how 30*s.*† an acre can be considered a "good rent" for lands forming part of a gentleman's "PLEASURE GROUNDS." How are we to reconcile this statement with the fact, that lands belonging to this and other of the Barnstaple Charities, realize more than £7 per acre?

5. This estate is let for a fresh term at the old rent.

7. This house produces to Mrs. Thomas, the present lessee, £32 per annum, clear of all taxes.

* The figures refer to the numbers in the rental.

† Quere 30*s.* or 15*s.*? See rental.

8. These fields still continue at the same rent which they produced forty-three years ago, whilst some of the estates have increased in value three-fold since that period. The rent must have been very high in 1786, or is very *low* now.

[B.] *Penrose's Bequest to Bridewell, p.* 101.

Amongst the memorandums of the date 1633-4, I find the following:—"Of the 200*l.** (that left by Mr. Penrose) "there is lent unto John Cole by his bond w^th^ sureties gratis, "for keeping at worke the poore and to live in the house the "some of 100*l.* 00*s.* 00*d.*"

"It appears," say the Commissioners, "that this Bride-"well was built by the *town*, at an expense of £300." Query—At whose cost, that of the Parish or of the Corporation? (for the term used may imply either;) from whichever fund the money was supplied for building the house, the Corporation receives £20 per annum for the premises, which have been long used as the parish workhouse.

[C.] *Horwood's Almshouse, p.* 104.

During the past and present year (1828), all the lands belonging to this charity have been re-let; the rental of the whole is now as below:—

	£	s.	d.
1. House and Garden . .	8	0	0
Part of Orchard leased to Mr. Bryant, for a term of 60 years, from Lady-day, 1827, to which 30 years are to be added, on payment of a fine, at the expiration of half the term	3	0	0

* This sum being among those of which there remain "no trace" (see page 101) it may not be amiss to bear in mind that both "bond and sureties" were exacted from John Cole, as security for the portion of it lent to him; it is not therefore likely to have been *thus* lost.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward . .	11	0	0			
Another portion of the Orchard leased to Mrs. Mullins, for a like period	1	1	0			
				12	1	0
2. Field	18	0	0			
Barn	2	2	0			
				20	2	0
3. Field	7	0	0			
Ditto	8	0	0			
				15	0	0
4. Two Fields	10	0	0			
				10	0	0
5. Stable	2	2	0			
				2	2	0
				£59	5	0

A substantial dwelling has been built by Mr. Bryant, on the ground of which he has taken a lease. The plot occupied by Mrs. Mullins, now forms a part of a walled garden.

[D.] *Paige's Almshouse, p.* 109.

The piece of ground (Congerham's) given by Alderman Appley, is now held by Mr. William Thorne, who took a lease of it in 1825, for sixty years, at £20 per annum; a much higher rent than could have been obtained for the property, for any other purpose than that to which it has been applied, besides the substantial improvements which have been made on it. The premises no longer consist of a field and a ruinous mud-wall cottage, but exhibit six small respectable dwelling houses, and twenty-eight neat stone-built cottages, all with garden ground. These several buildings produce a rental of about £220 per annum.

[E.] *Fish Dinners, p.* 110.

It was stated in page 16 of this work, that the corporation had compounded with the late Sir John Chichester, for these dinners. Having since discovered that this statement, which was made on the authority of that furnished by the Commissioners, confirmed, as it seemed to be, by the certain fact, that the dinners had long ceased to be given, was incorrect; it is necessary for truth's sake, although otherwise but of little importance, to set the matter right. The following appears to have been the agreement entered into.

" Whereas the corporation of the borough and parish of " Barnstaple, have given unto Sir John Chichester, of " Youlstone, Baronet, and his ancestors, annually, two " certain dinners, called Fish Dinners, within the borough " and parish aforesaid. And whereas it is mutually agreed " between the said corporation and Sir John Chichester, that " for the future, there shall be but one such dinner given to " the said Sir John Chichester annually, and that the sum of " 40*s.* being the stipend usually allowed by the corporation " for the expenses attending the other of such dinners, shall " be applied and disposed in such manner and form, and " to such purposes as hereinafter mentioned. And whereas " also several of the said fish dinners have not been given; " and for settling and adjusting the same, it is ordered and " agreed between the corporation and Sir John Chichester, " that the sum of £6, being an equivalent for such dinners, " shall be paid by the said corporation, and distributed in " manner hereinafter mentioned, and that the said fish " dinner so to be given in future as aforesaid, shall be given " on the third Saturday in October, in every year, and that " the said sum of 40*s.* allowed as aforesaid for the other of " such dinners, shall be disposed of on the 1st day of

" January in every year, in the following manner, *i. e.* one " moiety thereof to be paid to the trustees for the time being " for the charity school, within, and for the borough and " parish of Barnstaple aforesaid, as a further support of the " said school; and the other moiety thereof to the use of " such other charity as the said Sir John Chichester shall on " the said 1st of January yearly direct and appoint the same; " and for want of such direction and appointment, to such " other charity as the said corporation shall think fit. And " it is also ordered and agreed that the said sum of £6 so to " be paid in lieu of such dinners as aforesaid, shall be paid " by the said corporation on the 1st of January next, and be " applied and disposed of to the use of such charity within " the borough and parish, as the said Sir John Chichester " shall direct and apply the same. And lastly, it is agreed " that either party may vacate this order and agreement, on " giving six months' notice in writing to the other of them of " such their intention, and that in such case, this order shall " cease and determine accordingly."

This relic of feudal customs has now grown wholly into disuse, no such dinner, (as far as I have been enabled to discover) having been given since October, 1790, when the cost of a "fish dinner" was £2 13*s.* 4*d*;—a moderate sum, certainly, for the entertainment of a baronet, by a town corporation!

[F.] *Beaple's Gift, p.* 111.

On reading this statement of land tax deducted out of a rent-charge, we naturally look for some explanation or remark by the commissioners! On making enquiry if any reason could be assigned, why so extraordinary a claim was made and *allowed*, I was informed, that the trustees have latterly received the full amount of the bequest. Query—

If an error has been committed, why not receive back the arrears due on account of such error?

[6.] *Monies given to be lent, p.* 121.

		£	s.	d.
Those several sums make a total of		561	16	8
besides which the Commissioners notice the following bequests, of which they find no "trace:"—				
Richard Harris,	(see page 94)	50	0	0
John Penrose,	(„ „ 100)	200	0	0
Roger Jeffrey,	(„ „ 116)	25	0	0
Laurence Gibbons,	(„ „ 122)	20	0	0
Richard Castleman,	(„ „ 122)	50	0	0
James Walsh,	(„ „ 122)	20	0	0
		£926	16	8

"In 1634,*" say the Commissioners, "The Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of this town, observing that the poorer sort were not able to find security for loans out of the monies given to be lent to poor tradesmen, especially poor weavers and tuckers, but by leaving the money in the hands of their sureties, whereby little or no profit grew to the said poor; and being desirous that the poor should have some benefit of the said money, thought fit to lend part of the said money to some of the townsmen, such as by their trading helped and relieved the poorer sort, at six per cent., which profit at the end of the year, should be distributed to such poor weavers and tuckers as could not find security, nor employ the money to their profit." (See page 121.)

* I find that in 1633 the Corporation passed a resolution, that "Artificer's Loan Money be lent at six per cent. per annum."

It is worthy of notice that especial care had been taken to guard against all risk in lending "the poor's stock" to the *poor,* nor is it alleged that any loss was thereby sustained; yet we find that in less than forty years from the above-mentioned date, it had all disappeared. "It appears that as late "as 1671, interest," we are not informed how much, "was "received for monies lent, called the poor's stock, by the "mayor for the time being, and distributed to the poor; "subsequently to which we have not been able to find any "trace of these monies." (See page 122.)

Here then the Commissioners leave us in the dark. They doubtless never suspected, that the "Townsmen" *might have been* the Common Councilmen themselves! but what if this should turn out to be the case?

In April 1665, only six years previous to all trace of the money being lost, their Worships *"thought fit"* to pass the following resolution, "*that the monies belonging to the* "*poor be not lent to Common Councilmen, but on good* "*security, but—that* COMMON COUNCILMEN BE PREFER-"RED!!!" It is but reasonable to conclude from the tenure of this resolution, that these "monies" had been previously "lent to Common Councilmen" either on bad "security" or on no "security" at all, and thus lost, or in danger of being so; or why make such a provision? Surely had not past experience rendered it necessary, a vote so derogatory to the dignity of a corporate body would never have been passed.—Query—How did the "deficiencies" arise in these monies "which the Corporation *made good* in 1633?" (See page 121.)

We may fairly conclude from the last or *saving* clause of this resolution, that there was some advantage to be gained by retaining the money in their own hands. Was it nothing beyond the simple benefit which might accrue to the borrower of a sum of money after he had paid the interest, that they looked to? if so, and poor tradesmen could not, as

was alleged, borrow the money so as to derive profit from it, we may perhaps say, that the corporation of 1665 were honourable men! but how shall we reconcile such a presumption with the fact, that within seven years from the passing of this notable decree of the corporation of Barnstaple, in common council assembled, the six per cent per annum had ceased to be paid, and no "subsequent trace" either of principal or interest can be found?

Those who could so degrade themselves, as to enter into such a compact, were not likely to be slow in acting upon it; they could not however have done either, but with a full knowledge that they were acting in direct opposition to the specific directions of the "various donors," with the exception of one or two. Whilst they assumed the *power* of distributing these trust monies amongst the *needy*, they were conscious of possessing no *right* to lend them to any but the *poor*.

It singularly happens, that, even at this distant period, some "trace" is left of one of these sums "called the poor's stock." In 1652, the corporation of Barnstaple, out of (as we are bound to believe) a becoming and praiseworthy regard to their own dignity, not unmixed, perhaps, with a desire to shine on feast days and high holidays, determined on having their *maces* re-modelled and beautified, which was done, and for "new making the maces and new cases to the same," an expense of £22 was incurred. A year had now elapsed, the vanity of these venerable worthies had been fed by the exhibition of the gaudy insignia; some of their townsmen admired their taste, others extolled their liberality, whilst the "poor weavers and tuckers," unconscious that they were to be contributors towards it, gazed on the daw-like display, with wonder and delight.

But the "maces" were not yet paid for. Let us go back in imagination, to a "private hall" in 1653; the corporation with the worshipful Thomas Matthews, mayor, at their head,

are assembled; among other important matters for discussion, the silversmith's account is produced; he has given twelve months' credit, and wants his money: for the credit of the body it must be discharged, and payment is ordered; the treasury is opened, but it is empty; what shall be done? One individual makes an appeal to the pockets of his brethren, and seconds it by opening his own; but "the noes have it," and he is left alone in the minority. But to quit the regions of fancy, and come to plain matters of fact, such a meeting *was held*, in the year mentioned, and the result was, that the corporation passed a resolution, to "borrow twenty pounds, left to the poor by James Walsh, towards new making the Maces."*

It does not appear that any interest was ever paid on this sum, none certainly, taking the report of the Commissioners as a guide, subsequent to 1671. Had this comparatively trifling amount been "put out, and employed for the benefit

* It is possible that with reference to the above, as well as to other anecdotes mentioned in this work, two questions may be asked;—Where did the writer obtain his information? and—how do we know that what he tells us is true? Anticipating such enquiries, I reply—once for all;—

FIRST, that I have received from different hands a great variety of information, and that in a variety of ways. I have gleaned much in the town, and very much at a considerable distance from it. Verbal communications, letters, original documents, and choice scraps, have been liberally supplied; some have been obtained by solicitation, but the greater part has come as voluntary offerings, in aid of a work, for the successful completion of which considerable interest has been felt. It will not be thought surprising, that amongst a numerous list of contributors, there should be some desirous of being kept in the back ground; and such being their wish, I must, "as in duty bound" *strictly comply with it.* Since then "I am forbid to tell the secrets of my *writing desk,*" be it known to all who may hereafter be tempted to seek an acquaintance with its mysteries, that all and every person, of whatsoever rank, degree, or calling, who shall make enquiry relative to any matter or thing contained or recorded in MEMORIALS OF BARNSTAPLE, be, with all due respect, referred back (*Abernethey* to wit!) to "my book," page 168.

of the poor" from the time it was "BORROWED," it would have produced, at simple interest, £187, which, looked at as it ought to be, with reference to what a poor man might have purchased with a shilling at the beginning of the reign of Charles II. and at subsequent periods, compared with the present, cannot be set down at less than £500.

[H.] *Appley's Gift, p.* 124.

The first house mentioned under this gift was re-built, as stated in the Report, (in 1817,) and now produces, with a garden not belonging to the property, for which a deduction of £2 10*s.* should be made, £25 per annum, clear rent. A malt house and corn lofts, at the back of the premises, may be fairly estimated at £15 a year, making, with the rent of the dwelling house, £37 10*s.* instead of £14 as stated in the Report.

For most of the following particulars relating to the other of these houses, I am indebted to a respectable individual, who, about forty years ago, was in possession of the property. The premises were leased in 1770, to Jacob Penbetty, who re-built the house, which about fifty years

SECONDLY,—A better method could not perhaps be devised for impeaching the veracity of a work of this nature, than for the author to vouch for the authenticity of all it contains; could I, however, be assured, that by hazarding such an assertion, a contrary effect would be produced, a regard for consistency would prevent my resorting to such a fallacious expedient. No man can safely assert that occurrences recorded to have transpired from one to five centuries ago, really happened in the precise manner and time stated! But whilst I dare not say that every thing contained in this book is true, I *can say* that I have inserted nothing relating either to ancient or modern times, which I do not KNOW, or WITH GOOD REASON BELIEVE, to be true. Many persons into whose hands the work will fall, can bear testimony to my anxious and persevering endeavours in seeking to elucidate matters ambiguous in their nature, or doubtful as to their authority.

ago let for £8 a year. My informant applied in 1789 or 1790 for a renewal of his term, and would have readily given £10 per annum, from the expiration of the existing lease; he was, however, after repeated applications, informed, that "*a new lease could not be granted until the old one had expired.*" He subsequently sold his interest in the property for one hundred guineas, to William Thomas, and he for a similar sum to a Capt. Boucher; both these persons endeavoured to get an extension of the lease, but failed; when the latter disposed of it to Mr. Bremridge, who, as the Report states, for the trifling sacrifice of 10*s.* per annum, for twenty-four years, succeeded in procuring an addition of thirty-six years to his lease, at £2 10*s.* a year, or *one fourth of what another individual would have given for it.* (Mr. Bremridge had at this time a son in the Corporation.)

A gentleman named Russell took the house in 1811, for a term of twenty-one years, at £21 per annum, and made some internal improvements in it, in addition to a trifling alteration previously made by Mr. Bremridge. Mr. Russell, on quitting the town some years since, re-let the house, for which the present occupier pays twenty-six guineas per annum, besides a portion of the taxes; but this rent, it must be acknowledged, is high, when compared with that of the generality of similar property in Barnstaple.

It is quite clear, that had the same extension of term which Mr. Bremridge obtained in this property, been granted to the first-mentioned applicant at the price he was willing to pay, £10 a year, the charity would, at the close of the present term, have received as below:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Rent from 1830, when the first Lease would have expired, to 1866, when the present Term will cease, at £10 per annum				360	0	0

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward . . .				360	0	0
Deduct 36 years' rental, to be received under the existing Lease, at £2 10*s.*	90	0	0			
10*s.* per annum additional rent, for 24 years of the former term . .	12	0	0			
				102	0	0
Making a difference to the charity of				£258	0	0

But supposing the Corporation to have acted up to the declaration they made of letting the old lease run out, as unquestionably it would have been most consistent with their obligations as trustees to have done, they would then have possession of the premises in two years from this time, 1828.

Let us imagine this to be the case, and the house let, say at £18 per annum, *(about two-thirds of the present rental,)* and we shall have to add to the sum above stated, £288, making in all £546 absolutely lost, out of a moiety of one charity, by improper management.

It is but justice to say, that several members of the body corporate have openly expressed their dissatisfaction at the terms on which the lease was granted.

It is worthy of remark, that Mr. Appley left these two houses chargeable with a life annuity of £4 5*s.* 2*d.* from which we may presume that the property was worth this sum *at least*, annually; but there is no lack of evidence to shew that its yearly value was beyond this amount. The sum of £100 appears to have been raised out of the rents of these premises in 1663, (see page 124.) Mrs. Appley, as shewn by the parish register, died in 1612, so that in twenty-one years (if not in a less period,) the £100 was made up. It is therefore clear that the annual produce of this property was *less* in 1800 than in 1600, whilst its value was many times *greater;* and that even now, under leases newly granted, when the difference in value, as compared

with two hundred years ago, may (without taking into the account by Mr. Fisher's house having been re-built,) be stated as upwards of EIGHT to ONE, the income is not DOUBLED, and must remain at its present rate for more than thirty years to come.

[I.] *Lugg's Gift, p.* 127.

The lands belonging to this charity have remained at the rent mentioned in the report up to this time; but are now partly in hand, and about to be re-let.

[J.] *Sir J. Acland's Gift, p.* 129.

The following particulars of this bequest are taken from the Commissioner's Report of the Exeter Charities:—

The donor directed that the sum of £75 8*s.* should be distributed yearly among twenty-seven parishes named, to be applied in "the buying and providing weekly for ever, "penny loaves of bread of a middle sort, commonly called "cheate bread, to be bestowed and distributed every Sunday, "immediately after morning prayer, unto such of the "poorest sort of people," as those to whose management the different bequests were intrusted, "should nominate and "appoint to receive the same."

That to the poor of Barnstaple is as follows:—"And to "the mayor of Barnstaple, for providing thirteen such "loaves weekly, to be distributed as aforesaid, to thirteen "such people of the said borough as the mayor and four "of the most ancient masters of the said borough shall "appoint, £2 12*s.*"

In the event that any of the several trustees "should be "negligent, or refuse, or omit the performance of any of "the trusts, and should not, yearly, within twelve days next

" after the feast of Easter, deliver to the mayor and recorder " of Exeter, a true account in writing, how they had " disbursed the said sums for bread, &c., some other parish " near adjoining to the borough or parish so making " default," was to have the benefit of the gift " for one " whole year next after such default."

The property left in trust by Sir J. Acland, is, besides the amount already mentioned, charged with the payment of other sums, making altogether £97 2*s*.

The produce of the estate is stated to have been in 1821, upwards of £320 per annum, besides a balance in hand of about £1300. The Commissioners say, " A question has arisen " whether any portion of the considerable balance now in " the hands of the trustees, can be applied in augmentation " of the annual stipend directed to be paid to the exhibition- " ers ;* but we apprehend that the trustees have no authority " thus to increase them, and that the other objects of Sir " John Acland's charity have no claim beyond the sums " specified in his deeds."

[K.] *Westlake's Gift, p.* 132.

The Commission here alluded to was a special one, " under " the great seale of England, bearing date three and twen- " tieth day of March, in the nineteenth yeare of the raigne of " our Lord the Kinge, and directed to y^e^ Reverend Richard " Merwin, Doctor in Divinity, Philip Naylor, Rector, " Nicholas Dennis, Balshazar Beare, Esq. and Arthur " Actland, Marchant ; and to divers other P'sons dwelling

* Or in other words—in increasing the patronage of the Chamber of Exeter. (Two " exhibitioners " to be chosen from Exeter Free School were to receive £8 per annum each.) Why not have proposed an augmentation of the sums expended for the benefit of the poor? this would have been laudable, and could not have been met by any *reasonable* objection.

" and inhabiting in the said county, [Devon,] who were to " enquire into abuses, breaches of trust, negligences, mis- " employing, misgoverning, and misapplying," &c. &c. the " funds of this charity."

The following additional particulars of the decree are extracted from a copy of that instrument, preserved along with the accounts of the charity, now in the possession of John May, Esq.—" Found by the oaths of Paul Trix, John " Stone, Richard Tamblyn, Thomas Snow, Robert Combe, " John Brayley, John Loveringe, John Actland, George " Langdon, John Pope, John Ley, and John Langdon; " that [here the bequest is recited, as in page 131] John " Greade and John Cooke, ffuller, two of the last associates, " and now the survivors, that from the last association " which was in October last, fourteen years, the said poor " have not received the yearly p'fit according to the said " will, which p'fit according to calculation, for fifteen years, " amounts unto £350; and that of this the poor have had " butt two hundred twenty and ffour pounds, and that there " is due unto the poor of the p'fitts of the said estate, one " hundred thirty ffive pounds, ffourteen shillings, which is " detained by them, parte by the surviving associates, and " the residue by their neglect; and that the said one " hundred thirty ffive pounds, and ffourteen shillings, " profitts of the said ffour hundred pounds, are by their " neglect in not perfforming their trust, in danger of loose- " ing, if not timely prevented, by the inquisition hereunto " annexed.

" Now the said Commissioners having called before them " the said John Greade and John Cooke, upon full hearing " and debating what was said and alledged on their behalf " in the p'misses,

" Ffor reformation of the said abuse and breach of trust, " do hereby order, adjudge, and decree, in manner and " fform ffollowing; (viz.)—

" That the said John Greade and John Cooke be no " longer associates and trustees in the said trust, but are " hereby displaced and discharged from the same, and that " they doe before the ffive and twentieth day of March next " comeing, transfer, yield upp, and pay over vnto Gilbert " Paige, Marchant, Lewis Rosier, gent. Thomas Harris, " Henry Drake, and Richard Parminter, whom the said " Com^rs do hereby appoint, ordain, decree, and establish " to be ffrom henceforward trustees ffor the managem^t of " the said ffour hundred pounds, given by the said Kathe- " rine, w^th the profitts thereof, accordinge to the said will, " All the bonds, bills, papers, specialtys, chest, money, and " other things whatsoever, w^ch are in their or either of their " hands or custody; And that they doe noe ffurther inter- " meddle or act in the said trust. Lastly, ffor as much as it " appeareth to the said Com^rs That the said John Gread and " John Cooke are guilty of y^e breach and ill-management of " the same, w^ch hath caused the sueing out the commission, " they order and adjudge that the said John Gread and John " Cooke shall pay unto the said Gilbert Paige, Lewis " Rosier, Thomas Harris, Henry Drake, and Richard " Parminter, the sume of eight pounds towards the charges " and expenses in sueing out the commission, and in the " prosecution of the said inquisition and this decree. In " Wittness whereof the Com^rs aforesaid have hereunto sett " their hands and seales, even the day and yeare ffirst aboue " written, Anno Dom. 1667."

This, certainly, very equitable decree was not very promptly obeyed. Messrs. Gread and Cooke refused to surrender their trust, " upon reffusall whereof the said " trustees sued out a writt of execution of the said decree " from the said high Cort of Chancery," which induced the ex-trustees to submit; the *money*, however, was not forthcoming, and this trust debt could only be discharged in the manner explained in the following curious receipt:—

" Received, by order of a decree of Chancery, of Mr. " John Greade and Mr. John Cooke, one bond of two " hundred pounds, ffor payt of one hundred and seven " pounds, by Mr. William Palmer, Mr. Anthony Palmer, " and Mr. John Palmer; and one bond of two hundred " pounds, ffor payt of one hundred and seven pounds, by " Mr. John Downe and Mr. Richard Harris; and one bond " of one hundred pounds, ffor payt of one and ffifty pounds " and ten shillings, by the said Mr. John Cooke, Mr. Nicholas " Cooke, and Mr. Bartholemew Bisse; and one bond of one " hundred pounds, ffor payt of one and ffifty pounds and " ffifteen shillings, by the said Mr. Bartholemew Bisse, Mr. " John Cook, and Humphry Bisse; and one bond of one " hundred pounds, ffor payt of three and ffifty pounds, by " Henry Smale, Humfry Collender, and Daniel Gagg, [or " Gayy]; more, one bond of sixty pounds, ffor payt of " thirty pounds and eighteen shillings, by Peter Rowe, Mr. " Thomas Matthews, and Nicholas Sweet; and one bond of " fforty pounds ffor payt of one and twenty pounds and " ffower shillings, by Elizabeth Orchard, and Ffrancis " Punchard, which said bonds make vppe the sume of ffower " hundred pounds,* being that legacy left, &c. Witness " our hands, this seventeenth day of October, in the twen- " tieth yeare of the raigne of our Soverigne Lord Kinge " Charles the second, over England, Anno Dno. 1668."

It happened, rather untowardly, that at the very time when Mr. Greade was ousted from his trusteeship, he held the office of chief magistrate for the borough; (see List of Mayors;†) he had previously filled that of mace-bearer.

* The sums enumerated make £421 7*s.* perhaps including interest from the time of making the decree. The " profits " in arrear would appear to have been previously paid up.

† His name appears for 1666. The dates mentioned refer to the time when a mayor enters on his office, in which he continues until the month of October in the ensuing year.

[L.] *Drake's Gift, p.* 139.

The house mentioned as having been bequeathed by Mrs. Drake, (who by the way adopted a novel expedient to prevent her remains from being disturbed,*) is that now known as the "White Hart" public-house, and produces a rent of £25 a year, which is lost to the poor of this town and Pilton, in consequence of the donor's ignorance of the law relative to such bequests.† It must be acknowledged that this charitable dame would have better fulfilled the *law* of

* The Sexton still receives his fee of half-a-crown annually.

† It must doubtless have been often thought strange by those unacquainted with the origin of this law, (as may be the case with some of my readers,) that enactments should be made for the express purpose of preventing benevolently disposed individuals from disposing of their property to such charitable uses as they might desire; the best things are, however, liable to be abused, and long experience has shewn such restrictions to be needful.

At a period even anterior to the Norman Conquest, it was found necessary to curb the inordinate appetite of spiritual fraternities for temporal possessions, which was partially effected by prohibiting religious houses from purchasing lands without the sanction of the King, by what was termed a license of MORTMAIN, (such a state of possession as makes it unalienable; "whence it is said to be in a *dead hand*, a hand that cannot shift away the property," as is the case in "an alienation of lands or tenements to any corporation ecclesiastical or temporal.") But so "difficult was it to set bounds to ecclesiastical ingenuity," that statute after statute was framed, "in deducing the history of which statutes, it is curious to observe the great "address and subtle contrivance of the ecclesiastics, in eluding from time "to time the laws in being, and the zeal with which successive parliaments "have pursued them through all their finesses; how new remedies were still "the parents of new evasions; until at last the legislature, though with "difficulty, obtained a decisive victory." Amongst other inventions of the Monks, in order to evade the forfeiture of their lands, was that of "taking long leases for years, which first introduced those extensive terms "for a thousand or more years, now so frequent in conveyances, and it is "to these inventions also that our practisers are indebted for the introduction "of uses and trusts, the foundation of modern conveyancing."

charity by leaving her property amongst the "poor persons related to her," than by disposing of it for the benefit of strangers.

By the returns made to Parliament in 1786, it appears that the poor of Barnstaple then received £3 per annum from this property, which is described as being vested in James Hiern. It is probable that a similar sum was distributed in Pilton; £6 might have been then nearly the produce of the premises.

[M.] *Cordwainer's Lands, p.* 145.

The following description of the property belonging to this charity, gives us a more particular account of its situation and extent, than the statement furnished by the Commissioners, and also shews the present rental, or estimated value per annum of the different premises.

	£	s.	d.
1.—Two Brick Dwellings, nearly adjoining the back way to the King's Arms, in Anchor Lane, *now let for* £26	21	0	0
[Between these houses, there is a passage or gateway, forming a back entrance to the			

Previous to the passing of the last statute of Mortmain, 9 Geo. II. cap. 36, it was "held that former enactments did not extend to any thing but "superstitious uses, and that therefore a man may give lands for the main- "tenance of a school, or hospital, or any other *charitable* use. But as it was "apprehended from recent experience, that persons on their death-beds "might make large and improvident dispositions; it is therefore enacted, "(by the above-named statute,) That no lands or Tenements, or money to "be laid out thereon, shall be given for, or charged with, any *charitable* uses "whatsoever, unless by deed indented, executed in the presence of two "witnesses, twelve calendar months before the death of the donor, and "enrolled in the Court of Chancery within six months after its execution; "and unless such gift be made to take effect immediately, and without "power of revocation."—See *Blackstone* and others.

	£	s.	d.
Brought up	21	0	0
dwelling house of the lessee, and the two houses next to it on the north side. Only the centre house of the three had such a communication until very lately, the other two having been made by Mr. Harris.]			
A Stable, let with the "Wellington Arms" public-house; estimated value . . .	6	0	0
A Kitchen, with Laundry over, built by the lessee, and attached to his residence;—value calculated as if the ground had not been built on, but had remained as before, for purposes of trade	6	0	0
	£33	0	0

2.—A property designated in the trust deed as "a messuage or dwelling house," (see page 143,) and in the rental, "part of a shop," &c. but understood to comprise the front part of a house, late the "Wellington Arms;" namely, a shop, small sitting room behind the same, with a way through it to a staircase, and two or three rooms above; now vacant, but *let for many years at* £26 . . . . 21 0 0

[The rent now expected is believed to be *more* than it lately produced; but how much cannot be ascertained.]

3.—A dwelling house, nearly opposite No. 2, all but a small parlour, lately converted into a shop, and a room over. The premises are now occupied by Miss Griffiths, as under-tenant to Mr. Jas. Trix, who holds them of Mr. Hiern, for the remainder of his term. The yearly value of this property will not, when I state that it now brings in a clear rent of forty-five guineas,

	£	s.	d.
not including the shop mentioned above, be thought *over-rated* at	33	0	0
Two small Dwellings in Paige's Lane, and lying behind the last-mentioned premises, let for £15	12	0	0
A Garden in Castle Lane, on part of which the lessee has built a Stable, lately let together for £5 5*s*.	4	4	0
	£49	4	0

The Commissioners notice a trust deed of the date of 1663, but furnish no particulars respecting the management of the property earlier than 1731; the data supplied from this period gives the following result:—

	£	s.	d.
1.—Received by Fines, in 1731, 1761, and 1794	95	16	0
Rent received and to be received, from 1731 to 1854, 123 years, at four shillings per ann.	24	12	0
	£120	8	0
Or less than 19*s*. 7*d*. a year.			
2.—Fines in 1758 and 1798	23	3	0
Rent from 1758 to 1858, 100 years, at eight shillings per annum	40	0	0
	£63	3	0
Being under 12*s*. 8*d*. per annum.			
3.—Fines in 1744* and 1787	32	0	0
Rent from 1744 to 1847, 103 years, at twenty shillings per annum . . .	103	0	0
	£135	0	0
Not quite £1 6*s*. 3*d*. per year.			

* No mention is made of any fine in 1774, but I have given the *management* the benefit of any doubt that may arise as to one having been paid, by estimating it of an equal amount with the sum stated in 1787.

It is, then, from the foregoing calculations, indisputably clear, that the "Cordwainer's Lands" will, when the existing leases shall have expired, have produced to the charity for upwards of one hundred years, an annual average income, *including both fines and rent*, of but TWO POUNDS, EIGHTEEN SHILLINGS, AND SIX PENCE, although now worth full ONE HUNDRED POUNDS *per annum, clear of rates, taxes, and repairs.* It may, perhaps, be urged, that the property is much increased in value; granted; but the increase has been both visible in its effects, and progressive in its operation, and cannot therefore be pleaded in extenuation of such management as the estate has been subjected to. No one will venture to assert that the consideration given has not been always vastly disproportionate to the current value of the property obtained.

Again, it may be said, that the different premises have been improved. Mr. Trix was at considerable expense (about £200*) in 1821, in re-modelling the lower part of the front of the house mentioned as being rented by him; and Mr. Harris has, as already stated, built a kitchen on the premises held by him; besides which, I am not aware of any improvement worth naming having been made; and these, be it remembered, have not been taken into account, in the present valuation of the lands.

From the following statement, the poor cordwainers may see the actual loss their property has suffered from having been *thus* "dealt with."

I have said that these premises have risen, and it may be fairly expected that, situate as they are, in the best quarter of the town for trade, they will *continue to rise*, in value. Not, however, to bear too hard upon the management, let us consider the average annual value of the property as only

* As this alteration extended to the whole front, not more than two-thirds of this sum can be said to have been expended on the charity property.

one third the amount I have estimated it at, (which, it should be borne in mind, is far below what it is now paying,) and the account will stand as below :—

	£	s.	d.
1.—Produce to the respective lessees, for 123 years, at £11 per annum . . .	1353	0	0
2.—Produce to the respective lessees, for 100 years, at £7 per annum . . .	700	0	0
3.—Produce to the respective lessees, for 103 years, at £16 8*s.* per annum . .	1689	0	0
	£3742	4	0

Deduct amount of fines and rents (see p. 180) :—

	£	s.	d.			
1.—	120	8	0			
2.—	63	3	0			
3.—	135	0	0			
				318	11	0
Loss to the charity .				£3423	13	0

Enormous as is the difference between the two amounts here shewn, the statement will not appear to be in the least overcharged, when we consider that if the property had produced *nothing* for the first seventy-two years, being about two-thirds of the average duration of the different terms above stated, the present rental, *after deducting twenty per cent. for casualties*, would realize in the remaining period of about thirty-eight years, more than my calculation amounts to for the whole time.

Well then might the poor cordwainers, (who, it would seem, have never been fully aware of the extent of their wrongs,) complain to the Commissioners, " that they had " some property in Barnstaple, which did not yield them as " much as they conceived they had a right to expect from

" it; and request that some enquiry might be made on their " behalf concerning it." *

[N.] *Charity School.*

The following is a list of the different donations and bequests, (not including the rent charges, which have been already stated,) bestowed on this benevolent institution from its establishment in 1710 to the present time :—

			£	s.	d.
1712.	Mary Eburn . . .	bequest	5	0	0
1713.	John Smith . . .	ditto	10	0	0
1714.	Rev. Mr. Somers . .	uncertain	5	0	0
1714.	Renatus Greenslade .	bequest	10	0	0
1715.	Elizabeth Ackland . .	uncertain	50	0	0
1717.	Isabella Charlotte Rolle .	ditto	107	10	0
1717.	George Larkin . .	bequest	20	0	0
1719.	Rev. W. Bampfield . .	ditto	40	0	0
1720.	Edmund Burgh . .	ditto	10	0	0
1720.	John Stevens . .	ditto	40	0	0
1720.	Bartholemew Wakeman .	ditto	10	0	0
1720.	Edward Hammond . .	ditto	10	10	0
1720.	Phillis Barnes . .	ditto	10	0	0
1721.	John Symons . . .	ditto	100	0	0
1721.	Hugh Lord Clinton .	uncertain	10	10	0
1721.	John Rowley . .	ditto	20	0	0
1722.	Sir H. Ackland, Bart.† .	ditto	21	0	0

* Three aged shoemakers, as a deputation from their brethren, waited on the Commissioners, with the (to them) very natural expectation of deriving some benefit from their interference; but they were deceived. The applicants were received with courtesy, their complaint patiently heard, and an investigation made; the Commissioners could do no more. Two of the three individuals have since paid the debt of nature, and many more must go down to the grave, before the "poor cordwainers of Barnstaple" can have their rights restored to them.

† This gift is mentioned in the return made to Parliament in 1786, but does not appear on either of the tablets in the church.

			£	s.	d.
1722.	Philip Ridgate, Esq. .	uncertain	10	10	0
1725.	Agnes Waybard . .	bequest	30	0	0
1725.	Margaret Rolle . .	ditto	5	0	0
1726.	Alexander Harper . .	ditto	6	0	0
1726.	John Jenkins . .	uncertain	10	10	0
1730.	William Docton . .	ditto	50	0	0
1731.	Sir Nicholas Hooper, Knt.	bequest	100	0	0
1731.	Edward Fairchild . .	ditto	30	0	0
1732.	Rev. W. Burgh . .	ditto	10	0	0
1732.	Robert Andrews . .	uncertain	10	0	0
1734.	John Phillips . .	bequest	200	0	0
1755.	Martin Lautrow . .	ditto	10	0	0
1759.	Robert Incledon . .	ditto	10	0	0
1767.	Mary Score . .	ditto	10	0	0
1776.	Nicholas Shepherd . .	ditto	20	0	0
1776.	Joan Stanbury . .	ditto	100	0	0
1776.	Barnard Whitrow . .	ditto	10	0	0
1783.	Daniel Marriott . .	ditto	10	0	0
1796.	Frances Barford . .	ditto	10	10	0
1797.	Benjamin Incledon, Esq. .	ditto	10	0	0
1807.	Nicholas Shepherd .	ditto	10	0	0
1812.	Sir Christopher Robinson, Knt.	donation	10	0	0
1812.	Sir Masseh M. Lopes, Bart.	ditto	20	0	0
1815.	James Sciance (3 per cent. Con.)	bequest*	50	0	0
1816.	Edward Paul Pilcher, Esq.	ditto	40	0	0
1817.	Thos, Sciance (3 per cent. Stock)	bequest	50	0	0
1818.	Francis Ommaney, Esq. M.P.	donation	10	10	0
1824.	Frederick Hodgson, Esq. M.P.	ditto	10	10	0
1825.	John May, Esq. . .	bequest	10	0	0
1826.	Henry Alexander, Esq. M.P.	donation	10	10	0
1826.	William Slocombe, Esq. .	bequest	20	0	0

* Mr. Sciance gave £100 to be divided between this school and "Bell's School;" the whole sum in the event of the discontinuance of either, to be applied for the benefit of "the surviving school for ever."

There is a Public Clock fixed on the roof of the School House, the Bell of which bears the following inscription, "DENYS ROLLE, ESQ. 1764."

Dec. 10, 1734, An order was made for transferring the Rents and Profits of Facey's Ground, (see Skinner's Gift, page 112) to this institution, "but this order was afterwards declared void by the Corporation, as being contrary to the will of the Donor, and the Deed of Feoffment, made by Mr. Bartholemew Wakeman for declaring and settling the same."

The interference of the Corporation in this case was as commendable as their decision was just. The Body would have earned to themselves an unfading reputation had they *always, as in this instance, stood forward to maintain the rights of the poor, by enforcing the legitimate application of all funds designed for their benefit.*

The annual Income available for the purposes of this Charity having been given in detail by the Commissioners, (see page 150,) more need not be stated here respecting it, than that Francis and Bowden's Estate remains in the hands of the same occupier, and at the same rent, as stated in the Report.

The last Collection made at the Church Doors, September 1828, amounted to £37 7*s.* 0*d.* and that of the previous year to £39 9*s.* being the largest sums ever received after the annual "Charity Sermon."

The expenditure on behalf of the institution, for the year ending Sept. 16. 1828, was as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Salary to Schoolmaster	45	0	0
Ditto to Schoolmistress	5	0	0
Woollen Cloth	29	5	0
Dowlas, &c.	21	4	0
Carried up	£100	9	0

	£.	s.	d.
Brought up	100	9	0
Worsted	8	9	8
Shoes	29	16	0
Thirty Bonnets	2	0	0
Knitting Stockings	4	11	6
Making Boy's Clothes (Tailor)	6	5	0
Ditto Shirts	1	5	6
Ditto Girls Gowns	1	5	0
Stationery and Printing	5	6	6
Glazier's, Carpenter's, Mason's and Smith's Bills	1	14	3
Felling Trees on Estate	0	15	0
Rent Charge to Almshouse	4	0	0
Receipt Stamp	0	0	6
	£165	17	11

The conduct of the Trustees of this School in publishing an annual statement of its accounts, cannot be too highly commended; such a praiseworthy example will, it is hoped, be soon followed by the managers of all the other charities belonging to the Town. It is freely admitted that most of these are, and have been, well conducted, but it is, nevertheless, notorious, that the inhabitants generally know little or nothing about how they are managed; many are perhaps even ignorant of the existence of some of the minor ones. It is not enough for the conductors of a charitable fund to know that their duties are faithfully discharged; this knowledge should be extended to all within the sphere of the influence of the institution itself. The public mind, ever alive to suspicion respecting the management of charitable institutions, is peculiarly so with regard to such funds or establishments, the expenditure of which is only known to the Trustees or Managers; nor can this feeling be in any way so effectually allayed, as by a periodical publication of their Receipts and Disbursements.

[o.] *Newcommen's Gift, p.* 155.

The following account of the above is copied from that referred to by the Commissioners in the Charities of Bideford.

" Margaret Newcommen, by her will, bearing date 17th August, 1810, gave to the Rev. Samuel Rooker, of Bideford, the Rev. Henry William Gardiner, of Barnstaple, the Rev. William Rooker, of Tavistock, and the Rev. Richard Evans, of Appledore, dissenting ministers, 1,000l. in trust, to invest the same in the purchase of stock in the funds, in their names, and to apply the dividends and interest arising therefrom towards the relief of the aged and the young, namely, in relieving such objects of age as might appear to them truly deserving, whether as faithful and affectionate members of Christ, or otherwise those of his household, whose cases evidently called for assistance; and with respect to youth, in giving premiums or gratuities to young persons for peculiar good conduct, or for attainments in religious matters, or for extraordinary application to the study and learning by heart the sacred scriptures, and other good publications, and in paying for the schooling and religious instruction of such poor children, as would otherwise be destitute thereof; and she directed the said trustees not to touch or break in upon the principal sum, but from the most imperious necessity.

" By a codicil to her will, she gave to the said Samuel Rooker and William Rooker 200l. stock in the four per cents. the interest thereof to be laid out yearly for the schooling of poor children that would not be taught to read else; three or four at Westdown, the same at Barnstaple and Bideford; and she appointed the Rev. Samuel Rooker, and the Rev. William Rooker, trustees for the same.

" Mrs. Newcommen was a protestant dissenter, residing at Bideford; she died in January, 1813; all the trustees are

living; but the management of the trust has chiefly devolved upon the Rev. Samuel Rooker, who resides at Bideford. The legacy of 1,000l. after the deduction of the duty, appears to have been invested in March, 1814, in the purchase of navy five per cent stock, which since the reduction of the interest of that fund, amounts to the sum of 960l. 19s. 6d. in the new four per cents, standing in the names of the trustees, and producing a dividend of about 38l. 8s. 9d. The other legacy of 200l. stock in the four per cents. appears also to have been transferred into the navy five per cents. by the trustees, with the view of increasing the income of the charity; and there is now standing in the names of the trustees, stock to the amount of 176l. 15s. 7d. in the new four per cents, producing the dividend of about 7l. 1s. 3½d. Mr. Samuel Rooker has kept one general account of the two gifts since the year 1814, and has paid annually to two schoolmistresses of Barnstaple 4l. each; to a schoolmistress of Bideford, including the cost of some books furnished, 4l.; and to another of West Down 2l. He has also provided books for schools at several places in the north of Devon; and has given sums of money, varying from 1l. to 5l., to aged and necessitous females, having regard to such as were friends of the testatrix; he has also transmitted sums to the other trustees for their distribution, in like manner. These occasional donations have been chiefly made to dissenters; and all the schools, except that of West Down, are under the management of persons of that persuasion. Mr. Rooker makes up his account at the end of every year."

The Interest for life of the £1200 here bequeathed, would have been a valuable boon (in addition to an annuity of £5 per annum each left them by Mrs. N.) to four relatives of the Donor, two of whom were at the time of her death, as at present, receiving parochial relief in this Town.

To what Chas belonging -	Observations.
Litchdon Almsh	The Lands, &c. belonging to this Charity, and all the other property not designated in Italics, would appear to have been let by Auction, and for short Terms.
Ditto	
Ditto	
Ditto	Judging by the rise on other lands, this must be taken as a moderate estimate.
Horwood's Almsl	
Paige's Almsho	Compare the increase of income derived from this property to that on the two houses mentioned below,* (situate in one of the principal streets of the town,) the gift of the same individual.
Poor of Barnst	
Ditto	
Ditto	
Ditto	
Ditto	
Poor Cordwainei Barnstaple	In support of the opinion I expressed, (p. 181,) as to the probable future value of these premises, take the following fact. A house on the same side of High Street as No. 3, and only six doors from it, has just sold for *one thousand eight hundred and fifty pounds*. It was bought by auction, with a view to its being *pulled down*, and is now rebuilding. There are a couple of Tenements behind, but very inferior ones to those belonging to No. 3.
Charity Scho	In the returns made to Parliament in 1786, this property is mentioned as producing 56*l*. per annum, but by a memorandum now before me, it appears to have been let in Dec. 1777, for fourteen years from the ensuing Lady-day, at the "yearly rent of 75*l*. free and clear of all taxes and outgoings, except the land tax." A quarry has very recently been discovered on this estate, which, it is expected, will considerably enhance its value.
Girl's Ditto	

[P.] *Stanbury's Gift, p.* 156.

Mrs. Stanbury, it must be acknowledged, exercised a sound discretion in excluding such of the parishioners as might not be "of the communion of the Church of England" from any share in the appropriation of her bequest, as the following characteristic anecdote, which may be implicitly relied on, will shew. "Good-now, Cousin," said the old lady a short time before her decease, to a respectable female named Reeder, "what sort of a bible d'ye use at the Meeting?" For aught the venerable dame knew, the congregation at the Meeting, instead of using the same bible, and holding, essentially, the same doctrines, as that with which she assembled in the church, might have been readers of the Alcoran, or spiritual subjects of his Holiness the Pope!

Annexed is a Tabular View of all the Lands described in the Commissioners' Report as appertaining to the several charities existing in this town; shewing the Donor's name, date of bequests, produce of the estates at different periods, &c.

No one, it is presumed, after perusing the foregoing account of the state, management, and produce, of the different eleemosynary institutions existing in the Town of Barnstaple, will be at a loss for a reason, why, when so many of the Charities have flourished, and proved increasingly productive, others have withered under the hands that should have fostered and protected them, and thus proved altogether unfruitful.* The cause is obvious enough. The

* It is not of course intended to say that these estates have really yielded no profit, the preceding pages bear ample proof to the contrary; they too "*have proved increasingly productive,*" but not to the CHARITIES *to which they belong*. I am here reminded of an anecdote of our late beloved Monarch George the Third. His Majesty observing that an immense sum was annually

business of letting the estates of these "misgoverned" charities, has been transacted with "closed doors," or in plainer terms, without such publicity being given to the proceedings, as would have produced a fair and honourable competition for leases of the different lands, and, as a certain consequence of such rivalry, an *equitable rent.*

I have already said that the greater part of the Barnstaple Charities have been well conducted, but, had the custom prevailed of publishing annually, as in the case of the Blue School, or even septennially, statements of the affairs of *all*, would not the gross mismanagement which has prevailed in *some*, have been prevented? Unquestionably! Those twin-destroyers of charity property—*secret lettings*, and *long leases*, would have been unknown amongst us, and the poor Cordwainers might now be in receipt of about One Hundred Pounds per annum, instead of *Thirty-two Shillings;* nay, more! they might have been in possession of Lands in four other Parishes, which it is quite clear belonged to the Company of Cordwainers within the last two hundred years, but which since 1633 appear to have been lost (see page 141). Rumour indeed, even now, points at Property over which an individual, many years deceased, used to exercise the rights of *ownership*, which is *supposed* to have been "Cordwainer's Land."

Notice of the appointment of new Trustees to this charity having been omitted in its proper place in the Appendix, their names are here given. The deed of enfeoffment bears date 8th May, 1827.

expended in fruit for the Royal Household, enquired what became of the produce of his own gardens? The reply was, *not* that the Trees were barren —there was abundance of fruit—"but that it had been customary to distribute it in presents." Thus the "Cordwainer's Lands" "Appley's Gift" "Monies given to be lent," &c. have produced fruit, and *golden* fruit too, but it has been literally *given away.*

SAMUEL BREMRIDGE,	GEORGE PETTER,
WILLIAM CHAPPLE PAWLE,	WILLIAM WOOLLACOTT,
WILLIAM LAW,	ALEXANDER SHAPCOTT,
RICHARD BREMRIDGE,	ROBERT RICE,
BENJAMIN BALLER, JUN.	WILLIAM RENNELS,
JOHN BAKER,	THOMAS MAY,
FRANCIS BAKER,	THOMAS BAKER,
ELLICE LEE SANDERS,	WILLIAM PETTER,
JOHN LEWORTHY DAVIS,	JOSHUA TURNER.

Since the appointment of these gentlemen, both the lessees of the property have applied for a renewal of their respective leases, but without success. The new feoffees have, much to their credit, discarded the old system, and the dawn of a brighter day at last opens on the "poor Cordwainers of Barnstaple."

A misstatement is made at page 164, (see Appendix F.) which it is desirable should be corrected. My information was derived from a source which left me no room to doubt it's correctness, but I have since learnt from unquestionable authority, that the deduction on account of land-tax is *still* made; *why*, I cannot learn.

The following benefactions did not come under the notice of the Commissioners.

Vicarage-lane Almshouses.

This building consists of two singularly small dwellings,* each having two rooms, one on the ground floor, and one above.

* Both are comprised in a space of 215 feet, walls and chimnies included.

No certain information respecting either the original designation of the premises, or the period of their erection, can be obtained,* but they are evidently very ancient, and are not known to have been ever applied to any other than their present purpose. The inmates are appointed, and the building kept in repair by the Rev. Thomas Boyce, Rector of Sherwill, from whom I have received the following account. "The "premises at Vicarage Corner have been in the possession of "my family for some centuries past; the occupation of which "has always been given to any indigent persons the pro-"prietor has thought proper to place there."

As this statement tends to raise the question, are the premises *charity*, or *private* property? it becomes incumbent on me to state, that they have been always considered as belonging to the poor. The following is a copy of a memorandum relative to it, made several years ago, by an individual now deceased. "Supposed to be built and the gift "of Mrs. Phillis Barnes, to the Poor of Barnstaple, and the "predecessors of Mr. (Rev.) Thos. Boyce, to whom she gave "her property, were bound to repair it. One Mrs. Askham "repaired it about 70 years since; she left a daughter who "married Mr. S. Stevens. Mr. Thomas Boyce's mother was "called Barnes." The writer adds "search the donations in the Church for this gift." I have done so, but find no mention of it.† The name of "Phillis Barnes" appears in 1720, (see page 183) as a benefactor to the Charity School; this individual was probably a descendant of the supposed founder of the Houses alluded to.

* On a Lead Gutter in front of the building is the date 1618, but this may only mark the time when the lead was placed there.

† I have not thought it necessary to give a copy of the donations and bequests inscribed on the tablets (of which there are six in the South Gallery) in the Church, as it would be to do but little more than repeat what has, in some shape or other, been already stated.

Frances Barford's Gift of £33 6s. 8d. to the inmates of Horwood's, Paige's, and Litchdon Almshouses, in the Town of Barnstaple.

The present manager of this Charity, John May, Esq. (son and executor of "John May" hereafter mentioned) with a laudable desire to have it more generally known, as a preventive against any future misapplication of its funds; has furnished me with the original statements made by his father respecting it, copies of which follow:—

"Memorandum to Posterity, 30th June, 1787.—It is Mrs. "Barford's request that the annual interest of the £33 6s. 8d. "Old South Sea Annuities, should be laid out in Bread and "distributed among the poor inhabitants of Horwood's, "Paige's, and Litchdon Almshouses, in the Town of "Barnstaple.

"John May."

"Memorandum also to Posterity.—That Mrs. Frances "Barford, of Salisbury, widow of Richard Barford, Gent. "gave in her life time, Old South Sea Annuities, the interest "to be given as mentioned above. The said Annuities Old "South Sea, was purchased the 22nd of June 1787 by her "friend John May, and transferred to him for the purpose "that her aforesaid request might be fulfilled and complied "with, and my Executors or Executrix are to do the same.

"John May."

"1809. Memorandum.—It was transferred by me to "Richard Marston, Esq. and John May, Jun. my son, that as "the said Richard Marston was living in London, he was "thereby enabled to receive the dividends without the "expense of a power of attorney, which would be more than "the annual dividend amounted to.

"John May."

"Old South Sea Annuities Office, Ely Place, Holborn,
"19th January, 1809.

"I hereby acknowledge to have had transferred to me by "Mr. John May, of Barnstaple, the sum of thirty-three pounds "six shillings and eight pence, into my name and that of his "son Mr. John May, Jun. of the same place, which said "money is to be given to the Poor of Barnstaple; that no "part of it is my own property, and that it is so transferred "for the sole purpose of my receiving the dividends upon it "from time to time, and of paying those dividends to the "said poor.

"Witness my hand, "R. Marston."

The annual produce of the stock is £1, which sum was distributed, according to the directions of the Donor, half-yearly, during the life time of the late John May, Esq. regularly distributed in Bread amongst the inhabitants of the three Almshouses already named; one half on New-year's-day, and the remainder on the fourteenth of February, the latter day being the anniversary of the death of the Donor, who died in 1789. The same arrangement is continued by his son. A regular and correct account (which I have seen) of the receipts and disbursements of this charity has been kept from the commencement to this present year (1829.)

"Matilda Peverell gave, Oct. 20, A. D. 1482, a tenement to the Mayor and others in trust, to repair St. Peter's Church and the Chancel."

Of this gift there is "no trace."